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OCT-3-1946

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 1 -

PRICE AID TO BRING MORE MEAT BARRED BY ANDERSON RULING-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson retained meat today on his list of commodities which are in short supply. The action apparently ended any possibility of early price decontrol in the meat field.

Announcement of the new short supply list followed a speech by Mr. Anderson at his home town of Albuquerque, N.M. where he is on vacation. In the speech he declared that in the list he could not mention "range cattle" because the supply of range cattle was adequate, even on some ranges more than adequate.

"I must deal with pork and mutton and beef," he added. "Beef, to look at receipts in Chicago and Kansas City, is in short supply. Hogs are also short, to look at receipts. Cattle receipts at twelve markets for the week up to last Thursday totaled 160,000 whereas a year ago they totaled 305,000; Hogs were 26,260, against 95,200.

"That, to a nation that already has 50,000,000--52,000,000 of them beef cattle--may have some serious implications."

His speech was to a meeting of cattlemen of his home State and he asked cooperation of the live stock industry in "trying to bring meat back to the American public in lawful trade at legitimate prices."

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FEDERAL MEAT TRADING HINTED-Albuquerque, N.M.-Government acquisition of all livestock that moves to market was cited by Secretary Anderson today as "a very real danger that day by day becomes more of a possibility."

Asserting that the July-August holiday from price ceilings was largely responsible for the current shortage, he declared that a second decontrol period would be unwise--"feast and then famine."

In addressing the executive board of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association he warned that "high prices and empty counters" might shrink appetites for meat and that cattle and range prices could "get too high."

"Cattle receipts are down and black markets are scheduled to flourish," he continued. "In these circumstances the people of this country hungry for meat and with money to spend for it, are likely to ask for new measures and new sources."

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BOSTON UNCOVERS BIG STORE OF MEAT-Boston-Gov. Maurice J. Tobin's office announced tonight as the Congressional meat hearing here ended that State police and investigators of the public health department had found 6,000,000 pounds of dressed meat in a freezing plant.

The meat, which included beef, pork and lamb, was the first reported found in storage since the Governor ordered a State-wide survey yesterday to determine if meat was deliberately being withheld from customers.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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Farm Digest 2135-46

From New York Times, Oct. 1 -

PACKERS SAY CURBS CAUSE MEAT PINCH-Chicago-Blame for the meat shortage and the confusion throughout the meat industry was placed directly on Office of Price Administration controls today by packers attending the annual meeting of the American Meat Institute.

George A. Schmidt, president of Stahl-Meyer, Inc., of New York said that if OPA controls were removed this week beef would reappear in the country's butcher shops in substantially larger quantities within two weeks to two months, he estimated.

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NO BEEF IN MONTHS SIOUX CITY MEN SAY-Sioux City-It will take at least four or five months to overcome the current beef cattle shortage and pork will not be in normal supply for a considerably longer period, according to the men who operate this fourth largest livestock market of the country. Usually they add: "And who says differently doesn't know what he is talking about--and that's for sure."

They were impatient to tell their story, these men who buy and sell livestock on the hoof and rent the space for bringing buyer and seller together. Unwilling to wait for the beginning tomorrow of hearings before the Congressional Republican Food Survey Committee, they button-holed individual members as they crossed the hotel lobby to register.

They all had a common message: the OPA must go. But they also were agreed that it would not make much difference in the prospective supply of meat if OPA controls were abandoned tomorrow.

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O'DWYER ORDERS SEARCH FOR MEAT-Declaring that New York City's meat shortage "smacks of conspiracy against the public" Mayor O'Dwyer planned a search yesterday to discover whether or not meat in quantity was coming into the city at any point.

Already satisfied that the retail shops are practically bare, the Mayor instructed the Police, Health and Markets Departments to collaborate on a search of large meat warehouses, railroad storage plants, and other depots where meat in quantity might possibly be stored. A force of 225 inspectors, including seventy five policemen, will make the search beginning this morning.

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300 JERSEY BUTCHERS TO CLOSE-Jersey City-With 300 Hudson County retail butcher shops set to close tomorrow for two days, in protest against black market operations, and to remain closed Thursday unless legitimate meat becomes available, representatives of the Hudson County Retail Meat Dealers Association will go before Office of Price Administration officials of Newark in an effort to get action. James Rosen, counsel of the association said he and Harry Faller, president, will demand that the OPA seek immediate action by the Federal Grand Jury against dealers handling black market meat.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 1 -

COTTON PRICES are flying high on shaky wings. Crowding 40 cents a pound, the basic cloth staple now rides 320% above pre-war 1938-39. Contrast: Average gain for all commodities is only 60%. Back of the boom, of course, is a small crop prospect and heavy consumption. This year's crop is officially estimated at 9.1 million bales. More pessimistic private appraisers say it will be nearer 8 million. Mills now use cotton at a yearly rate of 10 million bales. But the question is: How long will the 10 million-bale consumption rate last. Normal U.S. requirements are about 6 million bales yearly.

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POULTRY PRICES probably will not be put back under ceilings. They've jumped some 50% in the past month because of the steak-chop fade-out; but the fiasco resulting from attempted recontrol of red meat makes officials leary of the fowls. Production of broilers, moreover, is expected to be going full blast again by the year-end. This should curb runaway prices, Government men say.

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SMALL MEAT PACKERS fatten cattle themselves to avoid livestock ceilings. If a packer buys cattle and holds them for at least 30 days (which he utilizes to feed them) he apparently doesn't have to meet O.P.A. compliance limits on the livestock. The practice has grown rapidly since the return of O.P.A. It's a particular favorite with chain stores operating their own packing plants.

Major meat packers so far have avoided it; they feel it is steering so close to the line between the legal and illegal that it isn't worth the risk. Meanwhile, O.P.A. brains are being racked to figure out some means of checking this evasion of the principle of price control.

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ARMY BUYS ARGENTINA BEEF, Washington - Hit by the domestic meat shortage the Army is turning to Argentina for some beef for overseas use. War Department officials told reporters that negotiations are under way with several big packing houses in Chicago having South American subsidiaries.

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PACKER EARNINGS HOLDING UP WELL, Chicago - Earnings of the meat packers this year will look much better than the scanty current supplies of beefsteak and porkchops might indicate.

The production picture in meat packing at the moment is terrible, to put it mildly. In September, Federally inspected meat production has been the lowest for any month on record and about 70% below September, 1945. If controls remain October will be a little better than September, but meat output will still be 55% to 60% below a year ago. Two months, however, do not provide much of an index.....Offsetting the "red ink" windup in meat packing during the industry's current fiscal year, which will end October 31, are the following significant favorable factors: (1) Elimination of excess profits taxes. (2) An excellent business in non-meat products such as cheese, poultry, eggs, margarine and ice cream. (3) Good earnings earlier this year.

Taking both the favorable and unfavorable factors into consideration, it appears highly probable that the industry's dollar volume this year will be less than in the preceding fiscal year. Federally inspected meat production, which is one of the best guides to the industry's volume of business, will be 11% to 12% below the 12 months ended Oct. 31, 1945.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 1 -

FERTILIZER INDUSTRY FORESEES GOVERNMENT'S ENCROACHMENT - Despite reliable predictions that the fertilizer industry will be setting even greater production records in 1946-47 than in the peak year 1945-46, observers believe that the months ahead will be marked by the threat of Government encroachment.

The Hill-Bankhead-Flannagan bills (S 882 and H.R. 2922), which were promoted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, and would have embarked the Government on a wholesale program of construction and operation of fertilizer plants together with widespread free distribution of their products, did not emerge from the Agricultural and Forestry Committees of the two houses.

A Senate amendment to the Government Corporations Appropriation for a TVA fertilizer plant at Mobile, was downed in July after a hot Congressional debate.

However the Farm Bureau has already publicly stated that it is undaunted by the defeat of this particular appropriation and intends to continue its efforts for establishment of its entire National Fertilizer program during the 80th Congress, scheduled to convene in January.

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WHEAT ADVANCES; OTHER GRAINS SAG - Wheat futures registered advances ranging from 1/8c to 1c during the morning trading at Chicago but all other grain futures were reactionary with corn displaying weakness in the face of reports of frost from parts of the producing belt.

Independent action in wheat stemmed from small buying orders attracted by continued small country offerings, indications of a possible sizable reduction in the visible supply, an unusual development for this time of the year, and a private advice from France which placed the wheat outturn there well below earlier calculations due to persistent rain during the harvest period. As a result, it was suggested that France may require large imports whereas it had been expected that these would be insignificant this season.

Frosts were reported in parts of the Northwest, Illinois, Iowa and Kansas, but the Weather Bureau indicated that no material damage had been caused. Cash interests were sellers of corn presumably hedging.

Oats were affected by the action of the yellow cereal which offset continued small country selling. Elevator interests were sellers.

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DAIRY PRODUCTS REGISTER GAINS - Butter markets, together with markets for many other dairy products, moved higher again today under increased competition to secure supplies and a restriction on the total quantities available. At this season price advances can do little toward an extensive expansion in production and the major means of balancing supply-demand relationship is curtailment of the latter. This already is being encountered and at today's rise will undoubtedly be intensified. This is in spite of the fact that major chain stores in this area at least are holding retail rates to an unusually narrow spread over wholesale costs.

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WEATHER CURTAILS TOMATO PACKING - Development of low temperatures in parts of the Midwest and Northwest close to freezing and in some instances dropping below this level, according to private reports, was believed in canned food market circles to have practically ended packing of tomatoes and tomato products in many of these areas for the season.

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From The Commercial Appeal, Sept. 28-

PROSPEROUS ERA LIES AHEAD FOR U.S., CHESTER DAVIS SAYS-Chester Davis, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and an internationally known economist who handles figures with the deftness of an adding machine was in Memphis yesterday attending a meeting of officers and directors of the bank, the first such conference held here since 1941.

"The only real cure for the threat of inflationary prices is production, and still more production," Mr. Davis declared. "The high rate of national income and a large amount of liquid assets that can be converted into purchases, which would only bid prices up during shortages, make the price situation highly explosive."

So far, Mr. Davis added, consumers are showing considerable restraint in their purchases, a sign he regards as healthy.

From the Watertown Daily Times, Sept. 26-

AERIAL MAP OF AREA WILL AID ROAD PLAN-New York state plans to make an aerial map of the Watertown area to aid it in planning arterial highways leading to and from the city, it was disclosed today.

The department of public works will receive bids for making aerial surveys of eight different sections, including Watertown, at the State Office building in Albany on Tuesday at 2 p.m., Superintendent Charles H. Sells announced.

According to the department announcement, the surveys are to be completed before winter of this year. They will include drafting of topographic maps and photographic mosaic maps, employing, the announcement said, "the most advanced techniques of aerial surveying developed during the war."

EXTENDING MILKSHED TO MIDWEST POSSIBLE-For the first time since the pre-depression era, milk dealers are fighting each other financially for the right to buy milk from farmers in northern New York and the producers are benefiting through handler-paid premiums.

Allegedly, the "raiding" of the New York milk supply for the metropolitan area is being blamed for a looming shortage of milk this fall but actually, observers say, the fight is on because of the abnormally high profits in butter and cheese manufacture and so-called surplus milk is hard to find.

Nevertheless, the New York city board of health is fearful of an acute milk shortage this fall and plans to take steps to prevent it at a meeting in New York city Tuesday.

The agenda for the New York commissioner's hearing already includes proposals that the city seek milk from midwest dairies and that priorities be issued to milk users, giving preference to home users, and that the sale of bulk milk (now outlawed by legislation) be resumed temporarily.

From The Produce Packer, Sept. 28 -

TURKEY MEAT DEMAND IS DEVELOPING-Charlevoix, Mich.-Staging their first tour in five years, Michigan turkey growers found this week that a strong demand has developed for turkey meat since OPA has driven most of the red meat out of retail stores and off consumers' tables.

Dr. W. A. Billings of the University of Minnesota, widely known authority on turkey husbandry and guest speaker and consultant on the tour, cautioned growers at each stop and meeting to keep prices reasonable and keep turkeys moving into consumption.

EGGS MOVING UP AT PITTSBURGH-Pittsburgh-The critical red meat shortage in the city of Pittsburgh the past two weeks had effects on the egg market. Prices continue to advance, extra large grade A bringing 64c, large browns 59c, large grade A browns 56c, grade B 50c and medium grade A 49@50c. Supplies are adequate for the heavy demand.

From The Denver Post, Sept. 27 -

MORE WORKERS ARE NEEDED IN BEET HARVEST-Fort Collins, Colo.-An additional 900 workers are needed for the sugar beet harvest in Colorado, A. J. Hamman, state farm labor supervisor for Colorado A. & M. college extension service, reported Friday.

He said the greatest shortage of workers is in northern Colorado, from Fort Collins thru Fort Morgan, Sterling and Ovid, and in western Colorado, at Montrose, Delta and Rifle.

From The Chicago Daily Tribune, Sept. 28 -

HOG CALLER'S HOGWASH-Editorial-The haberdasher in the White House now claims hog calling as an additional qualification for directing the destinies of the nation. Mr. Truman cites his boyhood experiences on a Missouri farm to prove that he knows what he is talking about when he says there isn't going to be a meat famine.

The hog calling haberdasher says it's all the fault of the dirty Republicans. He forgets the record of his own department of agriculture. Last Dec. 1 Secretary Anderson announced a series of 1946 production goals for American agriculture.

He recommended that milk production be cut 2 per cent below last year's level. Milk is now selling at its highest price in history. Mr. Anderson helped put it there.

He recommended that poultry production be cut by 17 per cent. Skinny roasting chickens are selling for 55 cents a pound in cut rate markets, and the housewives can thank Mr. Anderson and his boss, Mr. Truman, for that.

He recommended that egg production be cut 15 per cent. Eggs are now selling for 72 cents a dozen in the chain stores. Thank you again, Harry and Clinton.

From The Times-Picayune, Sept. 27 -

MEAT AND POLITICS-Editorial-President Truman's firmness in support of OPA, the secretary of agriculture and the Price Decontrol Board on meat control should be the source of public reassurance in face of the turmoil that has developed over the shortage.

The scarcity is real enough but it has been exaggerated and exploited by politicians with an eye on the congressional elections.

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 14 DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
 (For October 2, 1946)

OCT 4 1946

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Office of Information
 Washington 25, D. C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the New York Times, October 2, 1946.

SHIP OFFICERS QUIT, PARALYZING PORT 2d TIME IN MONTH - The cogs of the nation's merchant marine slowed to a standstill yesterday for the second time in a month as the unprecedented strike of licensed officers got under way.

Government authorities were still trying to effect a settlement before the walkout could settle down to a long-term affair.

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CITY'S SEARCH FOR MEAT SUPPLIES FAILS TO UNCOVER HOARDING - A meat search by three city departments was three-quarters finished yesterday and disclosed holdings in local slaughterhouses, storage plants and railroad cars of 13,312,880 pounds--not much compared to New York's normal consumption of 3,800,000 pounds a day. Mayor O'Dwyer said he saw nothing in the findings so far to warrant municipal action.

Meat supplies in retail stores, meanwhile, continued to shrink, and the Office of Price Administration reported that the black market was shrinking even faster than the supply of available meat.

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WHY MEAT IS SCARCE - Editorial - Until six or eight weeks ago the annual production of meat in this country was running substantially in excess of that in the pre-war years. In July and August, without price control, meat was coming forward to market in ample quantities. Yet in the face of these conditions Secretary Anderson, following the precedent of the Price Decontrol Board, listed it as being in short supply and thereby insured its return to price control in September. Having done that, it would have been extremely awkward for him to take it off the short supply list this month, when the amount of meat coming to market is so notoriously smaller. If he had done that he would have rid the country of meat controls--but only at the cost of major personal inconsistency.

It is ironic, however, for Secretary Anderson to cite, as a reason for keeping price controls, the very shortage that price controls have brought about. "Beef," he declares, "to look at receipts in Chicago and Kansas City, is in short supply. Hogs are also short, to look at receipts. Cattle receipts at twelve markets for the week up to last Thursday totaled 160,000, whereas a year ago they totaled 305,000. Hogs were 26,200, against 95,200. That, to a nation that already has 80,000,000 cattle--52,000,000 of them beef cattle--may have some serious implications."

It may, indeed. And one of them is that price control creates scarcity and that the present shortage in meat was brought about almost solely by the restoration of meat control, for which the Price Decontrol Board and the Secretary of Agriculture are jointly and individually responsible.

(Turn to page 2 for other items from today's N. Y. Times.

From the New York Times, October 2, 1946 -

U.S. URGED TO EASE CITY LACK OF MILK - Health Commissioner Israel Weinstein will appeal to the Federal-State Milk Marketing Administration "to do everything in its power" to order more fluid milk shipped to New York City to relieve a growing shortage here.

Dr. Weinstein made this announcement yesterday after a three-hour public hearing called by the Board of Health. Commissioner Weinstein said that the fluid milk shortage in New York City was only about 100,000 quarts daily, 3 or 4 percent of the total shipments. This was largely due to the lack of glass and paper containers caused by the trucking strike. But, he emphasized, the shortage will grow progressively during the slack season in the next three or four months.

The principal reasons for the "long range" shortage are the "raiding" of the New York milkshed by higher-bidding dealers in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Connecticut, and the diversion of fluid milk to manufacturing uses returning greater profits, Dr. Weinstein explained.

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SUBSIDIES BLAMED FOR MEAT DEARTH, Sioux City, Iowa - Office of Price Administration controls and subsidies were denounced as responsible for a continuing meat shortage, for disrupted channels of distribution and a national black market at hearings today before the Republican Congressional Food Survey Committee investigating "why the food situation is worse now than during the war". Witnesses asserted the meat shortage was certain to continue another four months if OPA control is not ended now.

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HERTER SAYS CURBS ON CATTLE MUST GO, Boston - The immediate lifting of price controls on cattle as the only means of relieving the current meat famine was recommended today by Representative Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts in a report on the Congressional committee hearing held here yesterday.

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"PRINCIPAL BUYING" OF MEAT LIMITED, Washington - The Office of Price Administration today declared that while the "order buyer" now busy in key livestock centers is not subject to ceiling regulations, his "principal" is. If that "principal's" monthly meat-buying record is over ceiling on the average, he is subject to loss of subsidy payments and to penalties, including injunction proceedings on the basis of violated ceilings.

This warning came as some officials here were discussing the possibility that the Government might put set-asides on the livestock in the yards instead of on meat in Federally inspected plants as was done in wartime, thus ending the activities of the "order buyer." It was believed this might be the method Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, had in mind when he spoke yesterday in Albuquerque, N.M., of "Government acquisition of all livestock as it moves to market."

However, no official now at the department would talk for publication on this matter. Secretary Anderson is expected back here on Monday.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 2 -

U.S. ATTORNEY TELLS GROCERS A.& P. CONVICTION DOES NOT BAR MASS BUYING AND SELLING, Savannah, Ga. - Governmental prosecution of Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., culminating recently in conviction of the chain on charges of anti-trust law violation, represent no attack on integration or mass buying and selling as such but merely the correction of abuses of concentrated buying power, Holmes Baldridge, Assistant United States Attorney-General, said here today.

Addressing the United States Wholesale Grocers Association Mr. Baldridge, who is in charge of the Justice Department's anti-trust litigation, denied charges that the A.&P. conviction, if sustained, would knock the props out from under the entire American business system.

Mr. Baldridge said that the statement that no business would be safe from anti-trust prosecution "since A.&P.'s structure and practices are the usual and normal pattern of large American business" does not hold water in the light of the findings of Federal District Court at Danville, where the food chain was convicted.

On the contrary, he said, the department's investigation of food industry practices, launched five years ago and which during the intervening years, has led to some 100 prosecutions at all levels of production and distribution, attacks merely abuses imposed on competitors by the illegal use of power.

Specified practices which stand condemned by the A.&P. decision, the speaker said are:

1. The use of mass purchasing power to secure discriminatory buying preferences on purchases.
2. The taking of price preferences from suppliers which have no relation to actual cost savings.
3. Requiring suppliers to pay advertising costs of the purchaser who resells.
4. Abuse by an agent of a fiduciary relationship by serving two principals whose economic interests conflict.
5. Subsidization by an integrated concern of its retail operations profits derived from operations of the business other than retail, where such profits have been secured through the imposition of trade restraints.

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THE COTTON DILEMMA- Editorial - A shortage of raw cotton looms ahead for the United States during the coming year. Large exports of American cotton are illogical at this time, since the domestic demand alone considerably exceeds production. At the end of the current crop year, the raw cotton carryover may fall below 3,000,000 bales if estimates of 10,000,000 bales for domestic consumption and 3,500,000 bales for export are realized. Even with larger acreage and an increased crop next year, there is no justification, for pushing exports artificially through continued payment of an export subsidy, thereby reducing domestic supplies still further.

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CORN AGAIN PACES GRAIN DECLINE - A continued decline in corn futures again exerted a depressing influence upon other grain values and at noon Chicago time all deliveries with the exception of nearby oats were below previous closings. Trading in corn was on a somewhat smaller scale than the previous day with scattered hedging and commission house selling dominating the market. Bearish sentiment was again stimulated by reports that further frosts in parts of the belt had caused little or no damage and the trade was more impressed by predictions of very heavy yields of that cereal in many sections.

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BOXCAR SHORTAGE HITS FLOUR MILLS - The box car shortage was creating a serious situation for flour mills in the Buffalo area.....

The embargo imposed by the AAR yesterday against shipments to any port area in the United States destined for export, which included flour, was expected to divert more box cars for the domestic market but was held unlikely to effect any appreciable expansion in mill offerings due to the fact that many had already sold up their domestic allocations and others were unwilling to sell under existing price conditions.

A report was circulated in the trade that flour ceilings would be raised 15c per 100-pound sack either yesterday or today to compensate for action of the wheat market since present flour ceilings were established but official confirmation was lacking.

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NEW SHIP STRIKE TO BLOCK SUGAR - Although another ship strike developed yesterday morning at some ports, ships continued to discharge raw sugar cargo at refineries in New York. It was believed, however, that operations would be suspended before the day ended, and refiners were expecting that picket lines would be thrown around their plants and refining operations suspended as a result. Since termination of the last ship strike and renewal yesterday, only about 60,000 tons of raw sugar have been entered at Eastern ports. That is equal approximately to about a ten-days' supply for these refiners.

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BUTTER PRICES RISE - Extreme firmness in the country's butter markets with active competition to secure supplies developed yesterday. Total quantities available ruled far short of normal for this season and there was very broad buying interest from competitive sources both in the interior and at terminal points. Prices have risen to a considerable degree and there is fear in some quarters that the Decontrol Board may in consequence reconsider its recent decision to keep price ceilings off the dairy group.

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EGGS- Shell egg markets lately much firmer with an improving statistical position and the maintenance of very broad demand. Consumer call both for eggs and poultry has lately expanded tremendously as a result of the shortage of meat. Premiums above currently published wholesale quotations now are often obtainable, especially on large fresh nearby whites.

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SHORTEST COTTON CROP IN 25 YEARS REPORTED - The shortest cotton crop in twenty-five years, estimated at only 8,946,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight each, is indicated by Oct. 1 reports of several thousand Journal of Commerce correspondents throughout the belt. A smaller annual production has not been recorded since 1921 when 7,954,000 bales were ginned. The 1945 crop totaled 9,015,000 bales. Since the Sept. 1 survey, a reduction of 401,000 bales has been reported. Compared with the Department of Agriculture's forecast released on Sept. 9, the present estimate shows a drop of 225,000 bales. Condition of the crop averages 61.6 per cent of normal, reflecting deterioration throughout the belt amounting to 8.2 per cent during the month. Of the sixteen major cotton producing States, improvement is noted in only three.

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From the Chicago Daily Tribune, Sept. 30 -

EXPECT SPRING TO BRING FIRST FLOW OF BEEF-Kansas City, Mo.-The first appreciable increase in the supply of beef will not come until late in February or early in March, cattlemen said here today.

President Truman's predicted flow of grass fed cattle this fall will consist mainly of a few old cutter and canner cows and other types of sausage meat, they said. They were unanimous in agreeing that the President had been sadly misinformed as to the actual state of conditions.

The President told his press conference Thursday that a June drouth in the southwest caused a shortage of fat grass fed cattle and that the shortage would be relieved when the normal run of grass fed cattle begins in early fall.

"When frost hits the ranges there will be some cattle moving toward market carrying food fresh," said Dick Arnet, head of the Texas Live Stock Marketing association here.

Les Ayan of the Producers Commission association said cattle would begin returning to market in some volume in February and March. These will consist of animals fattened on wheat pastures and others fattened on the new corn crop.

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From The Chicago Journal of Commerce, Sept. 30 -

MONTH'S CATTLE BELOW NORMAL 5-DAY RECEIPTS-No one connected with the trade at the Chicago stock yards expects to live long enough to see a month in which receipts of cattle and hogs will be as light as they have been this September. Cattle numbers for the month will not total more than a normal five-day run, and on innumerable occasions more hogs have shown up in one day than appeared in the last four weeks. Even if ceilings stay on, somewhat larger runs are expected in October. And in any event, hogs will not reach market weights in appreciable numbers for at least another month, while good and choice fed steers will probably be acutely scarce until the turn of the year.

Nothing can be done to alter this situation immediately. The damage was done last Summer when record high prices coupled with the threat that ceilings would be restored combined to force unfinished cattle and underweight hogs to market in unprecedented large numbers. But the real reason for the current meat shortage began much farther back than that according to some trade analysts.

Producers in large numbers quit raising hogs following the 1943-44 fiasco when government support prices for hogs proved to be a flimsy affair which gave way under the largest pig crops on record. And insofar as cattle are concerned, the \$18 ceiling was undoubtedly too low to encourage drylot feeding in the face of mounting costs all along the line. Under ceilings, it was unprofitable to fatten cattle beyond the good grade, which meant short feeding for two to four months and then hurrying them off to market.

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From the Watertown Daily Times, Sept. 27 -

MR. TRUMAN'S LATEST ON THE MEAT PROBLEM-Editorial-The unfortunate Mr. Truman, to use a street expression, is again caught in the middle. No President in our recollection has such an unerring sense of direction when it

comes to getting into trouble. This time it is on the meat issue. At the very time that the Democratic national executive committee was asking the decontrol board to do something about meat ceilings, Mr. Truman was telling his White House press conference that controls would be kept.

We have no hesitation in saying that, in our judgment, Mr. Truman is right this time. But it testifies to the lack of any kind of leadership at the White House when the president takes one position and his national chairman and his national executive committee takes another. Moreover Truman admitted, after a little adroit questioning, that he and his national chairman, Bob Hannegan, did not see eye to eye on this meat question.

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From The Times-Picayune, Sept. 29 -

HYBRID WEED MAY BECOME SOUTHLAND'S PASTURE CROP (AP)Pensacola, Fla.-A stowaway grass of doubtful ancestry that took root years ago around the Pensacola docks may become the nutritious pasture crop that will grow profusely in the varied soils of the Southern coast plains.

It's called "Pensacola Bahia" because it is a hybrid form of the common South American Bahia and it grows wild only in this immediate vicinity.

Since Escambia County Farm Agent E. H. Finlayson noticed its vigorous growth on a sand dune in 1937 and gathered some seed, scientists at several Georgia and Florida experiment stations have been putting it through rigid performance tests.

They have found that it is adapted to a wider range of soils than probably any other Southeastern grass; it grows more vigorously and has a more virile seed than common Bahia; it has produced 100 pounds more beef per acre than carpet grass -- which was the standard pasture crop until recently-- it sends its roots deep, and it is particularly resistant to frost, dryness and excessive heat.

Cattle seem to like it better than most grass grown in this part of the nation. It makes fairly good hay, but it's primarily for pastures.

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From The Democrat And Leader, Sept 29 -

NEW MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM SOYBEANS HAS VARIETY OF USES-Belmond, Ia.(AP) A substance which has a wide variety of uses commercially--from use in leather tanning to food products--now is being removed from soybeans at a new General Mills refining unit here.

The substance is called lecithin and is removed from crude soybean oil produced at the Belmond plant by a degumming process.

The refining unit, the first of four General Mills' four proposed units, began operating last week under the company's chemical division. The division plans to have three additional refining units in operation late this fall in buildings adjacent to the present soybean processing plant and elevator in Belmond.

Commercially, lecithin is used in textile dyes, confections, paints, leather tanning, medicine, ice cream, margarine, etc. It is a colloidal substance, which the chemical division said, serves as an emulsifier and gasoline stabilizer and is used in bakery products as a shortening extender.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4094. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 3 -

END OF SEA STRIKE IS SOUGHT IN VAIN-Efforts to settle the paralyzing maritime strike hit a snag in Washington last night as negotiators attempted to work out a separate agreement for the East Coast section of the industry.

At 7:10 pm, the talks ceased and a Department of Labor spokesman said they would be resumed early this morning.

The break followed persistent reports that the Maritime Commission had decided to exert official pressure on West Coast employers to accept preferential hiring provisions already accepted by the eastern employers. It was known that the commission was considering such a step, despite warnings of rebellion on the part of Pacific shipping men.

But late last night the commission had not announced the order.

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WORLD SEEN FACING FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO A LACK OF ARABLE LANDS-Princeton-There are only about 4,000,000,000 acres of immediately arable land left throughout the world to feed a population in excess of 2,000,000 and increasing at the rate of 200,000,000 every decade, H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture declared here today at the Princeton bicentennial conference on engineering and human affairs.

The conference, to last three days, has been called to portray the importance of applied science and technology in the modern world; to examine the new trends affecting the individual and society and to discuss natural resources, their development and conservation, the efficient use of raw materials, the transformation of energy and modern transportation and communication.

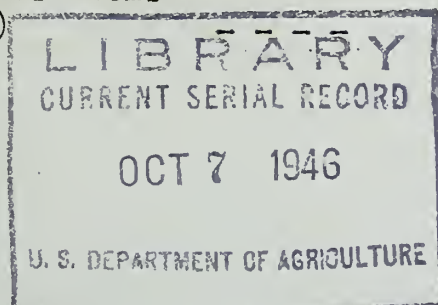
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CUBAN SUGAR CROP DOWN-Havana-There will be a drop in the 1947 sugar production and a still greater reduction in the 1945 crop is foreseen here as the stoppage of work in canefields spreads throughout the island.

The work of cleaning the fields and planting new cane is being halted by the cane planters' protest against the Government plan to seize any increase in the price of sugar. It is pointed out this work must be done during October or the crops of the next two years will suffer.

The National Cane Planters Association, which ended its sessions here yesterday, reiterated its opposition to the seizure, which planters term "illegal and improper." The members also declared that the work stoppage would soon be complete throughout the island.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)



Farm Digest 2165-46

From New York Times, Oct. 3 -

PRICE BOARD LOOKS AT DAIRY ADVANCES-Washington-The Price Decontrol Board today made its third official scrutiny of dairy products prices to see if ceilings should be clamped on them, but withheld any announcement until tomorrow, at the earliest.

It was learned that Chairman Roy L. Thompson and the other two members, Daniel W. Bell and George H. Mead, had called for additional price data from the Agriculture Department, the Office of Price Administration and the dairy trade groups.

Trade groups expected the board to continue the free market on milk prices because, they explained, this is the time of year when milk supplies are short and prices usually rise.

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ARMY MEAT RESERVES LOW-Washington-How hard hit the Army has been by the meat shortage was revealed today with an announcement by the War Department that it had been able to obtain only 20 per cent of the 12,000,000 pounds allocated to it weekly by the Department of Agriculture and that its reserves were so low that "at the present time the armed forces are dependent upon meat procured from day to day."

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WARNS 25 PERCENT OF NATION'S BAKERIES MAY CLOSE SOON FOR LACK OF SHORTENING-Chicago-About 25 to 30 percent of the country's retail bakeries may have to close by this week-end if more shortening does not become available, Frank G. Jungewaelter, secretary of the Associated Retail Bakers of America, predicted today.

Just recovering from the recent wheat and flour shortage, the bakery industry is now facing a critical lack of vegetable shortening and an almost complete lack of animal fats, Mr. Jungewaelter said.

Some improvement in supplies of vegetable oils only is expected from a recent increase of \$1.90 a hundred pounds granted by the Office of Price Administration on crude oils, including cottonseed, soybean and corn oils. Bakers are governed by allotment.

Allotment of vegetable fats has been reduced 6 percent to send additional shortening supplies to the South where the shortage is particularly acute, Mr. Jungewaelter said.

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PACKER OPENS RETAIL STORES-Trenton-In an avowed experiment to determine whether operations could be conducted under price ceilings without loss, the Delaware Packing Company, Trenton meat processors, opened two retail markets of its own today. The management sought to save the customary retailer's mark up permitted under OPA rules.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 3 -

FOOD TRADE PLANS NEW WAREHOUSES, Savannah, Ga. - Moving to provide for expected continued tonnage volume gains and to achieve more economical operating costs, an important segment of the wholesale grocery industry is going forward with plans for new warehouse construction, according to management spokesmen here for the annual meeting of the United States Wholesale Grocer's Association.

The wholesalers' convention, at today's session, approved resolutions commending the Department of Justice for successful prosecution of A & P on anti-trust law charges. Hailing the decision of the Federal District Court at Danville, Ill. as a step toward making it possible for "veterans and small businessmen to engage in the grocery trade with better chance of success, in encouraging the home town merchant and promoting the welfare of the consuming public."

In other resolutions adopted today, the food wholesalers urged priced controlled for cost-of-living commodities "as long as necessary but decontrol for all products as soon as supply and demand are in reasonable balance.

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PRICES BREAK THROUGH 39C - Cotton futures broke through 39c in a buying market on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The new 26-year highs were made on the basis of the shortest crop in 25 years, totaling well under 9,000,000 bales.

With securities holding steady, factors in the market were confined to private reports of production of cotton. The Journal of Commerce Oct. 1 survey, indicating 8,946,000 bales in the current crop, tended to influence active buying.....

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RETAIL RESISTANCE IN BUTTER - Butter markets continued very firm with an extremely active demand in wholesale and jobbing channels to secure supplies which rule for short of anything like normal for the season. At retail there is an increase in consumer resistance at existing prices, but the backup in consumer buying is not yet adequate to temper wholesale and jobbing demand. There is some fear that recent sharp price advances will produce imposition of price ceilings by Government officials. On the basis of latest information, however, this seems unlikely.

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ALL GRAIN FUTURES ADVANCE SHARPLY - All grain futures displayed strength during the morning trading at Chicago yesterday with constructive sentiment shaped by reports of probable large export allocations for the final quarter of the year and light country offerings.

While official confirmation was still lacking, reports were widely circulated throughout the trade that wheat and flour export allocations will be very large. In addition, it was indicated that between 8,000,000 and 10,000,000 bushels of corn and around 7,000,000 bushels of oats would also be allocated.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 3 -

EQUIPMENT MAKERS PLAN NEW FARM MACHINES, French Lick, Ind. - Farm equipment makers will produce a bumper crop of new type machines next year. Many had been scheduled for production in 1946. But interviews with manufacturers attending the Farm Equipment Institute's annual meeting, concluded here yesterday, revealed that production troubles have pushed back new products by six months to a year or more.

International Harvester's new cotton picker, which will do the work of 30 to 60 hand pickers, is a good example of production delays. The company had planned to produce a fair volume of these machines in time for the 1946 harvest. It now appears production won't start until late next summer and that volume output will not be achieved until 1948.

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SUGAR USERS can blame maritime and truck strikes for their super-short rations. The situation may get worse before it gets better. The second ocean shipping strike in less than a month has again halted the unloading of raw sugar from Cuba, our biggest supplier, and Puerto Rico. Imports from Hawaii already were curtailed by a month-long strike of sugar field workers there.

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FARMERS FACE PERIOD OF LOWER PRICES, Chicago - With farm products facing a period of declining value while manufactured goods soar, the American farmer may have to rely on Government assistance, Asher Hobson, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Wisconsin, declared.

He addressed the forty-first meeting of the American Meat Institute at the concluding session yesterday.

The logical solution will be "for farmers to look to Government for offsetting advantages," he said. "This is not a satisfactory answer," he commented, "but if Government action is such as to handicap agriculture, then agriculture has little choice but to appeal to the Government for relief."

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MORTGAGE BANKERS WARNED AGAINST INFLATION, Cincinnati - Real estate price storm signals were raised here yesterday. Delegates to the Mortgage Bankers Association convention were told that if they are relying on inflation to justify present property valuations, they had better take notice of the new ominous straws in the wind. This warning was made by Raymond Rodgers, New York University Professor of Banking.

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ESTIMATES OF FRENCH 1946 GRAIN CROPS INDICATE RISE OVER 1945 - Official estimates of French grain crops for 1946 place prospective wheat production at 244,352,000 bushels compared with 184,000,000 bushels in 1945, 256,285,000 bushels in 1944 and the 1935-39 average of 286,510,000 bushels.

Wheat import needs of France for the 1946-47 season are estimated at 14,720,000 bushels. Prospective oats production for 1946 is placed at 250,470,000 bushels compared with 172,000,000 bushels a year ago, 177,746,000 bushels two years ago, and the 1935-39 average of 329,299,000 bushels. Barley production for 1946 is estimated at 47,648,000 bushels compared with 34,500,000 bushels in 1945 and the 1935-39 annual average of 52,999,000 bushels. The rye crop is estimated at 17,740,000 bushels against 13,800,000 bushels in 1945 and the 1935-39 annual average of 30,013,000 bushels.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 1 -

DESPITE MR. TRUMAN MEAT FAMINE FACTS ARE CLEAR ENOUGH-Mr. Truman's apologists tell us that the President faced a hard choice when he insisted upon retention of meat controls. In the same breath they add that Democratic Majority Leader McCormack's demand for a 60-day suspension of control was a brazen political move in a situation which should be above politics.

This is just so much nonsense! Mr. McCormack's motives may have been political, but Mr. Truman's certainly were no less so. Congress passed a law providing machinery for price decontrol. When the President encountered what appeared to him to be an insurrection within his own party, he did the politically expedient thing. He made sure that the machinery would function only in accordance with his own views. No one expected him to take any other course.

Despite Mr. Truman and his economic and political advisers, the salient facts are no secret. Price controls came off in July and prices went up. Meat came into the market in such quantities that the top prices didn't last long enough to produce mutterings of discontent which the decontrol board translated into a popular demand for the reimposition of controls.

With the new ceilings, shipments declined immediately. Shippers decided, all but unanimously, that they could make more money under reimposed ceilings by holding their livestock to maturity.

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From the Detroit Free Press, Oct. 1 -

THE WORD IS 'MEAT'-Editorial-Why is an extra session of Congress needed to get meat back on the American table? At its last session Congress passed the OPA Extension bill. Truman vetoed it. Then Congress passed the OPA Revival bill. Truman signed it.

This law gave the Decontrol Board and the Secretary of Agriculture all the power necessary to avert a meat famine. They should use it.

What the Nation wants is meat--and not more Congressional or Administrative flim-flam.

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From the Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 1 -

BLACK MARKET DECLARED MAIN SOURCE OF MEAT-Kansas City, Kans.-It's no longer considered unpatriotic to deal in the black market.

This belief is dominant among meat producers now that the fighting has ended, and they are willing to do business with any one who has the right amount of money. Talks with cattlemen and feed lot operators, as well as meat experts, make it clear that the housewife will have to depend upon the black market for most of her meat supply until the termination of the OPA, scheduled for next July.

This new attitude was summed up by a Texas cattle feeder who had bought 2,000 yearling steers to be fattened on grain fields he owned.

"During the war I had a son in service," he said. "I believed in the principles we were fighting for. I made every possible effort to see that the beef I produced did not go to the black market. I turned down many extremely profitable deals to do this.

"Now I don't care who gets my animals as long as they pay the amount I want.

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From The California Cultivator, Sept. 28 -

TIGHTENING THE REINS-Editorial-The announcement by the United States department of agriculture that potato acreage goals for 1947 will follow a different pattern from the one used this year is highly important to every American farmer. They will cover not only the national total, but also state, county and individual farm goals have been set in connection with a price-support program under the Steagall amendment.

This change of pace was caused by the literal flood of potatoes which gave Uncle Sugar a rather severe case of financial indigestion this season. Some 67,000,000 bushels of tubers--over and above what had been planned--had the old gent with the whiskers practically up to his ears in spuds. Theoretically, the Steagall amendment is a sound piece of legislation.

The only trouble in actual practice with legislation of this type is, that it does have a tendency to encourage over-expansion and planting of marginal land that would not show a profit if the crop had to be sold on the open market without benefit of a price-support.

The only answer seems to be a firm allocation of acreage on a farm by farm basis. Many Americans argue that such a procedure is an infringement on the individual's right to run his own affairs. Maybe so, but to us it seems the lesser of two evils; removal of all support because a few persons run wild and make the program too expensive to be sound business, or a certain amount of restraint.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Sept. 30 -

WOMEN CHANGE MIND, WANT MEAT LID OFF-A complete about face in the stand of St. Paul housewives favoring price controls apparently has come with the current meat shortage, a survey by the Pioneer Press revealed Sunday night.

In July, when all Office of Price Administration controls were off, a number of St. Paul women contacted at random spoke up very much in favor of the return of OPA controls on food items at once.

Today, their stand, with one exception, is just the opposite. One woman admitted she and members of her family ordinarily "eat very little meat" and are not bothered by the current blackout of meat supplies.

Mrs. E. F. Leighton, 1783 Grand Avenue, president of the Planning and Pioneer Civic league of St. Paul, once urged St. Paul women to write their congressmen and urge the return of OPA.

Sunday, Mrs. Leighton said she is "very disturbed" over the meat shortage and that she doesn't think OPA is giving any service at the moment, at least in the food line.

"Many of the women I know who were for the return of OPA in July are now against it," Mrs. Leighton said. "Few are in favor of it."

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From The Amarillo Sunday News-Globe, Sept. 29 -

MANY MEAT MEN LOSING JOBS AS SUPPLIES HIT BOTTOM-Repercussions of the meat shortage were felt in Amarillo yesterday as mounting numbers of lay-offs were reported by major meat dealers.

A cross section survey revealed several companies are discharging all but essential meat cutters and handlers. Others were discharging extra help, including counter attendants and part-time workers.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 4 -

MEAT PINCH WILL BE WORSE IN WINTER, SAYS STEELMAN-Washington-President Truman said he thought that John R. Steelman, Reconversion Director, was probably correct in his statement in today's report, "The Second Year of Peace" that the meat shortage would become worse this winter.

The President said he saw no discrepancy between this statement and his own prediction of last week when he said that the normal run of grass-fed cattle of early fall soon would appear on the market and improve supply. The President reminded reporters that he did not say that there would not be a shortage, but he said there would be no meat famine.

Mr. Truman remarked that he was having a meat survey made to find out if he agreed with Mr. Steelman that the shortage would worsen, but that it was probably true. He said that all Government departments concerned with meat were in constant touch with the situation, and that if it was necessary to take any further action he would do it.

Mr. Steelman's office was equally insistent that there was no divergence in opinion regarding the meat shortage between the West Wing of the White House, where the President has his office, and the East Wing, where Mr. Steelman has his.

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MAYOR TO URGE U.S. END MEAT FAMINE-An appeal by Mayor O'Dwyer for new steps to be taken by the Federal Government for ending the famine of salable meat is expected this morning, after a day of feverish activity yesterday at City Hall.

Worried by the continuing shortage and by the results of a survey showing there was less than four days' normal supply in all the slaughter houses and storage plants in the city, Mr. O'Dwyer said yesterday that he would prepare recommendations to be sent to Washington about the meat problem.

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BOARD FAILS TO RESTORE DAIRY CONTROLS AS ESSENTIAL TRADE FACTS ARE HELD UP-Washington-A two day session of the Price Decontrol Board, devoted to an examination of the price and supply status of dairy products, closed today without any action by the board to restore price controls on milk, butter, cheese and other dairy items.

The board noted, however, that the failure of government agencies and some segments of the industry to supply requested additional information had blocked any definitive ruling and that action on dairy products could be taken at any time.

It was made plain that the board's adjournment was merely a temporary move and that its members, Daniel W. Bell and George H. Mead, were subject to recall whenever the chairman, Roy L. Thompson decided to reconvene the agency. (Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From New York Times, Oct. 4 -

MEAT MEN LIKEN OPA TO PROHIBITION-Kansas City-OPA price controls and compliance orders were blamed by former friends of President Truman today for causing the greatest decline in business ethics since the Volstead Act as well as creating a Frankenstein monster to destroy the political future of all who sponsored it.

Witnesses before the Republican Congressional food survey committee told of packing houses forced to close down, cattle feeders driven to the wall by chain store companies taking advantage of Office of Price Administration loopholes, and thousands of packing house workers thrown out of work through inability of employers to compete with the open market under price regulations.

The testimony taken by the committee today was the strongest indictment thus far against hardships caused by OPA requirements for producers, middlemen and consumers alike, and differed only according to the calling of the witness.

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CONFUSION MARKS MARITIME STRIKE-Maritime strike negotiations continued haltingly yesterday without any real prospect of solution and shipping men, losing hope of an early settlement, expressed fears that the nation-wide walkout of officers might extend indefinitely.

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SHORTAGES IN U.S. CHARGED BY DEWEY TO TRUMAN LAXITY-Albany-Governor Dewey formally opened his campaign for reelection tonight at the Republican rally here with a charge that post war shortages of meat, sugar, housing, automobiles and other commodities were the result of the "supreme incompetence" of the Democratic National Administration, headed by President Truman.

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SPECIAL SESSION ASKED ON FOOD-North Pelham-In a telegram sent today to President Truman, Mayor Dominic Amato of this village asked that Congress be called into emergency session to correct the food situation. "Our democracy is not working very well when the country which has the means to feed the world cannot even provide food for the tables of its own people," the message said.

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TRENTON GETS ITS MEAT BUT BY APPOINTMENT-Trenton, N.J.-Trenton housewives are getting scarce meat now--but by appointment. The two retail outlets operated by the Delaware Packing Company, local slaughterers, in an avowed effort to sell without loss by absorbing the retailer's OPA mark up have been swamped with customers. The butchers could not keep the line moving and long waits tried customers' patience. Twenty customers were being admitted to the store at a time while city policemen maintained order outside.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, October 4 -

COMPLETE LIQUOR DECONTROL FORESEEN BY END OF YEAR, Washington - Removal of price ceilings from all liquor by the end of the year is now being seriously considered by the Office of Price Administration, even though officials recognize that prices for straight and bonded whiskies can be expected to shoot upward, it was revealed today.

As a first step toward the elimination of price controls from the distilled beverage spirits industry a formal action to decontrol new whiskey going into new barrels for aging is now in clearance at OPA. Issuance of the decontrol order will probably take a few more days, an official said.

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PRICES READJUST DESPITE SHORT CROP - In a technical correction from the previous sharp advance, cotton futures lost as much as \$1.40 a bale in a fluctuating session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. However, on the early advance, October reached a new 26-year high of 39.28.

The market appeared to be discounting the bureau for a crop of less than 9,000,000 bales. Some quarters expected even lower totals than the 8,946,000 bales predicted by The Journal of Commerce but the general trade opinion was about at that level. It was believed that carryover on Aug. 1, 1947, would run about 4,000,000 bales and that production next season would increase sharply above that of the current season, possibly over 13,000,000 bales. This would bring domestic supply to about the same level as in the current season.

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RAILROADS TEST REFRIGERATOR CARS, Washington - Tests of refrigerator cars of new design, loaded with frozen foods, under actual operating conditions that promise to be of great value to refrigerator car owners and perishable shippers were outlined today by the Association of American railroads.

Six refrigerator cars, built by the American Refrigerator Transit Co. of St. Louis, are being used as a moving laboratory.

These tests are being made jointly by the AAR's refrigerator car research bureau, the Department of Agriculture and the National Bureau of Standards.

The cars were loaded yesterday at Hillsboro, Ore., just west of Portland, with frozen foods and are being moved across the country to Cincinnati. They contain various amounts of insulation ranging from 3 to 7 inches in thickness. Two of the cars have reflective insulating material incorporated.

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A. & P. TO APPEAL COURT DECISION, Danville, Ill. - The New York Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., its nine corporations and fifteen officers, convicted Sept. 21 of violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, today filed notice of appeal in the office of the United States District Clerk.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 2175-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, October 4 (Cont.) -

GRAINS IRREGULAR AFTER EARLY RISE - Chicago grain futures were firm during early trading yesterday aided by strength in the cash corn market but prices started to recede late in the morning on liquidation attributed to disappointment over export allocations and at noon Chicago time the market was irregular.

Country offerings of all grains continued light although early corn bookings-to-arrive reached a fair total of 108,000 bushels, largely new crop. There were no oats bookings but shipping sales of that grain amounted to 60,000 bushels and helped to impart firmness to the cash market.

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BUTTER PRICES UP AS DEMAND WIDENS - Chief interest in the butter industry is centering on the outcome of the latest decontrol board meeting to consider possible restoration of price ceilings. Butter market prices have lately risen sharply under heavy concentration of demand and a decided shortage in supplies compared with normal.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, October 4 -

MIDWEST FARMERS FISH LOGS FROM RIVER-BOTTOMS, Escanaba, Mich. - Fishing out water-soaked logs has become a profitable activity for farmers along many streams in Michigan and Wisconsin. Much of this timber has been submerged to six decades.

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SURPLUS SCARES are the latest nightmare of agriculture experts. Bumper crops are busting the boom already in major grains. Corn output this year will be a billion bushels more than normal, with fewer pigs to fatten. So the Government rushes a new corn loan program to support the market. It will be announced about October 15. The Commodity Credit Corp. will lend farmers \$1.15 a bushel to store their corn. This is below present market quotas, but Mr. Anderson wants a "floor" now to stop skidding prices when corn cribs overflow.

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SWIFT AT RECORD LOW, Chicago - Swift & Co. officials said that the company's stocks of meat on hand, including that in process and cure, are at a record low.

"Our stocks of pork and lard are less than 5% of normal and beef stocks are practically nil."

The statement also declared: "Since September 1, our meat packing plant production throughout the country has been the smallest in history because of the comparatively small run of livestock which have come to market."

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CORN MARGINS CUT TO 15 CENTS, Chicago - At a special meeting yesterday, the board of governors of the Chicago Board of Trade Clearing Corp. reduced margin requirements on corn futures from 20 cents to 15 cents per bushel on net open interest, effective today.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 2 -

VIEW ANDERSON RULING AS NEW FEEDING POLICY-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's decision to keep meat animals on the list of agricultural commodities in short supply apparently signals a reversal in the government's policy of controlling the country's meat supply, packing industry representatives said yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Meat institute in the Stevens hotel.

They recalled that only a few hours before announcement of the decision dispatches from Albuquerque, N.M., quoted Anderson as telling the New Mexico Cattle Growers' association he was listing meat animals as short despite a supply of range cattle that is "adequate" on many ranges and "more than adequate" on others. By the decision Anderson established grounds for denying a petition for lifting meat controls, which an office of price administration meat industry advisory committee has announced it will lay before him soon.

The packers called attention to the fact that most top grade animals were marketed in the "free market" period in July and August. Since it has been demonstrated that only decontrol will provide sufficient stimulus for substantial marketings, the packers saw in Anderson's action the government's intention to continue meat controls in order to restrict the number of unfinished, lightweight animals coming to market until they have been fed out to top grades.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 2 -

SEIZURE OF LIVESTOCK-Editorial-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson is putting some soviet steel into his appeal to cattle growers to rescue the Truman administration from the mess it produced by reimposing price controls on meat. Mr. Anderson says government acquisition of all livestock that moves to market is "a very real danger"--and oh! how he dreads it.

The secretary defended before the New Mexico producers his action in notifying the Price Decontrol Board that meat is in short supply. There's an adequate supply of range cattle, but he could not mention that fact under law. He could speak only of pork, mutton and beef--the finished products.

On that score there can be no quarrel with Mr. Anderson. But why deal in veiled threats?

"One of the things likely to arise again," he said, "is a proposal that this government acquire all livestock that moves to market, just as it acquired a few years ago all of the corn that moved to market in certain areas."

Mr. Anderson himself brought up the proposal. No one else in high places has suggested it.

As for the acquisition of corn, that was a wartime measure. During the war, when emergencies arose, we did a lot of things that were repugnant to the American way and which are out of place in peacetime, particularly when the emergency being dealt with is one of the politicians' making.

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From San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 28 -

THE BATTING AVERAGE-Editorial-President Truman predicts the meat famine will end "soon" --an optimistic if somewhat vague word--and adds: "I know what I'm talking about this time."

There will be few Americans who will not hope profoundly that the President is right; fewer, though, who will begin loosening their belts in anticipation of filling the void with fresh meat this week, this month, or even this year.

The past year's history of Administration prognostications on economic happenings provides little precedent for the President's tightness in this instance. The batting average of both the President and his advisers, in fact, approaches a goose egg.

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From The Salt Lake Tribune, Sept. 28 -

FARMERS' MARKET BOYCOTT PRODUCED MEAT SHORTAGE-Washington-It is not difficult to find out what made the meat disappear.

The farmers, according to my best farm experts, have entered upon a practical boycott of the market as a result of the Office of Price Administration ceilings. Some increased ceilings were allowed a few weeks back, but not enough to lure cattle or hogs into the market. Paul Porter's group operating OPA increased cattle from \$18 to \$20.25 a hundred pounds and moved hogs up from \$14.85 to \$16.25 a hundred. Since then, packing supplies of meat have steadily dwindled until the cities have gotten around to horse meat, and the butchers' shelves are empty nearly everywhere, empty of good grades of steaks and pork, and sparsely maintained with slim allowances of sausage, cold meats and other inferior substitutes for normal supplies.

The farmers are simply taking a gamble that prices will go higher. The feed situation is conducive to holding meat on the hoof. Excellent crops of corn and grain, and good pasture conditions, have afforded opportunities for feeding and fattening now to sell for a higher price later.

This may seem to the consumer to be a rather selfish arrangement, but the economic management which the government has built up over the past few years has practically required the farmer to do what he is doing.

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From The Boston Herald, Oct. 2 -

CURLEY DEMANDS TRUMAN ACT-President Truman could bring an end to the meat famine within a few days were it not for the danger of losing the votes of the nation's farmers and 1,000,000 OPA employes in the November election, Mayor Curley protested last night after sending to the White House a letter demanding that OPA be wiped out.

Immediate elimination of price controls on cattle as the only means of relieving the meat shortage and stabilizing the industry also was recommended by Rep. Christian A. Herter, Boston Republican, who on Monday conducted the State House hearing called by the special congressional committee investigating food shortages.

While these Republican and Democratic leaders were demanding relief from the famine, Gov. Tobin apparently was trying to find out whether he has authority under his wartime emergency powers to seize 4,000,000 pounds of privately-owned meat discovered in a Boston freezing plant on Monday, even though most of the meat was declared to be "undergrade" stored by makers of bologna and frankforts.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 7 -

CATTLE IN MARKET SENT BACK TO FEED-Omaha-Here in the heart of the steak and chop country, a sliver of luncheon meat has become a treat. Instead of slicing meat, butchers are knocking on doors collecting autographs for End-OPA petitions.

Major packing houses are killing less than 10 percent of normal. The industry's payrolls have been trimmed from 10,000 to less than 5,000.

Few expect to see an easing of the shortage soon. They agree with President Truman's latest opinion--that it may grow worse this winter. But it could be different, they assert, if Washington would only lend an ear--and decontrol.

Those in the industry sizzled at the President's earlier statement--on Sept. 26--that there would be more and better meat "in the near future," than if price controls had been left off. The price lids upset the industry again just as it was beginning to straighten out, they contend.

The normal run of grass fed cattle already is under way, and yet there is no meat in the markets, they point out.

Grass fed cattle are streaming off the ranges in the West and they are being fed in packed feedlots.

By Sept. 1 out of Omaha's market alone, 183,595 cattle had moved back to the country for feeding. This is 50,928 more head than for the first eight months of last year. Another 55,868 feeders flooded out in the first twenty five days of September.

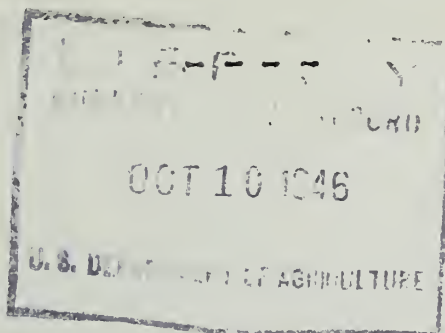
These crowded feedlots mean this; there is beef for the dinner table. But how soon? That is the question.

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ARGENTINA'S MEAT UNLIKELY FOR CITY-Buenos Aires-Argentina has 83 per cent of its surplus meat pledged to Great Britain, the major packing houses are closed in a lockout that already has lasted a week and the herds have been reduced by accelerated shipping during the war. Therefore it is highly doubtful that Argentina could ship enough meat at present to relieve New York City's meat shortage, even should Mayor O'Dwyer's suggest that Argentina meat be admitted to the United States be entertained.

It is one of the paradoxes becoming so common in the world these days that Argentina, which always has resented the ban upon its meat in the United States, actually is in no position at the moment to make any effective dent in the shortage in the United States now that some interest is being shown in the matter.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's New York Times.)



Farm Digest 2185-46

From New York Times, Oct. 7 -

TURKEY CROP IS COUNTRY'S SECOND LARGEST: 41,015,000 DUE FOR THANKSGIVING, YULE- Chicago-Americans will sit down to turkey and cranberries for their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals as usual this year despite heavy drains on the country's poultry supplies.

Reports from all across the United States indicate that more than 41,015,000 turkeys will be marketed, the second largest crop on record, 9 percent under last year's record high and 27 percent above the 1938-42 average.

Dr. Cliff B. Carpenter, president of the Institute of American Poultry Industries, indicated tonight that a larger percentage of turkeys would be marketed early because of the meat shortage but that there would be plenty left for the holidays.

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OPA CUTS CEILINGS ON CALVES TO 18¢-Washington-The Office of Price Administration tonight reduced the price ceilings on calves and any low-grade cattle weighing less than 500 pounds explaining that the calves' increase previously granted was "an error" as the directive of the Secretary of Agriculture on Aug. 28 "did not include calves."

Starting tomorrow, the ceiling on calves will go back to where it was June 30, \$18 a hundred pounds, Chicago basis. It had been raised to \$20.25 along with cattle ceilings, on Sept. 1 when price controls were restored.

The OPA said that no change in retail veal prices would result, because these ceilings already were at June 30 levels, and the reduction on calves was requested by packers who complained that they were caught between the higher ceilings on calves and the June 30 prices on veal.

At the same time the OPA directed that all "bovine animals, other than bulls, weighing not over 500 pounds" be classified as "calves" for purposes of the \$18 ceiling.

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REA DUPLICATION SHARPLY ATTACKED-Aiming directly at the Rural Electrification Administration, Grover C. Neff, president of the Edison Electric Institute, trade association of the utility industry, asserted yesterday that the use of Federal funds for the building of generating plants and major transmission lines which duplicate existing systems will be made "indefensible" by the industry's vigorous drive to complete the task of building rural extension lines by 1948.

In a statement setting forth the policy of the electric light and power companies toward farm electrification, Mr. Neff pointed out that power companies are working on "numerous research projects to find increasingly efficient ways of applying power to farm operation." He added that in this effort the industry has the active cooperation of State universities and numerous farm organizations.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 7 -

BRITAIN'S TEXTILE MAKERS aim to export 175% of their pre-war volume. But even to begin to approach this goal, the industry must have modern economic plant equipment and more attractive working conditions to lure an adequate labor force.

This is the view of Sir Raymond Street, chairman of the Cotton Board. He reported that the volume of textile exports now is only 61.5% of the 1938 figure, compared with 110% for all manufactured goods. Sir Raymond declared that while pre-war textile exports made up nearly one-third of Britain's total value of overseas shipments, they have now slumped to about fifth place.

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TWO WAYS - Editorial - There are two ways to overcome the meat famine. One way would be to lift all price controls and other restrictions. Meat would then come to market. Initially the price would be high, but the supply of live stock is large and the price would adjust itself.

The second way should start with a livestock census....The next step would be for the Government to requisition the animals ready for market....It might be necessary to call on the Army. The supply of meat obtained in this way would not be sufficient to meet all demands. So it would be necessary to ration meat. Thus, after the livestock left the farm it is obvious that there would have to be more Government surveillance.....

When the meat was finally prepared and on its way to retail outlets, there would have to be a police escort. The retailer would be subject to temptation and so--if the meat finally reached him--there would have to be other agents to watch his operations.

All along the line from farm to consumer the Government agents would be offered large sums of money if they looked the other way. So to watch the agents, there would have to be another group of agents and possibly a third group to check the conduct of the second.

When the existing supply of livestock had been requisitioned, the growers, who object to requisitioning, would not willingly grow any more livestock, so it would be necessary to force someone to produce livestock. How that is done we do not know. The final end of price-fixing is coercion and famine.

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ELECTRICITY FOR 600,000 MORE FARMS SEEN BY 1948 - Electric companies expect to provide electricity for about 600,000 additional farms by the end of 1948. Grover C. Neff, president of Edison Electric Institute, said according to the Associated Press in New York. Mr. Neff said about 4.1 million farms, or three-quarters of all those occupied, are now either connected to power lines or within a quarter of a mile from such lines.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Wall Street Journal)

Farm Digest 2185-46-3

From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 7 -

FARM GROUPS ASK WORLD PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE, Buffalo, N. Y. - National farm organization leaders agreed upon a joint program calling for revision of the parity formula, disposition of crop surpluses, price stabilization and international agricultural cooperation.

The conclusions were drawn at a four-day conference of 24 farm leaders.....

A joint statement listed among the major objectives: Revision of the parity formula "to promote development of a yardstick for measuring the basis for a fair relationship between agricultural and industrial goods and services."

Study of a permanent price support program "which would lead to balanced abundance and efficient use of natural resources."

Increased attention to disposal of surpluses through upgrading of diets and development of new uses of farm surpluses.

Development of "a practical and workable program for adding greater stability to the general price level."

Consideration by the United Nations food and agriculture organization of international commodity agreements to achieve more stable prices and improved nutrition.

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CALIFORNIA'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PACKS PROMISE NEW RECORDS, San Francisco - Torrents of canned fruits flowing from California plants in the last eight weeks are putting the shade even the record-breaking production estimates made earlier in the season by the packers themselves.

Except for pears, some mixed fruits, a small amount of grapes and some odds and ends yet to be handled, this year's fruit canning chore is done. Expectations are that total output, headed by peaches and apricots, will reach 40 million cases, 10 million above the previous record pack of nearly 30 million cases in 1944 and 7 million above an estimate made by the packers early in August. That was when the packing season moved into high gear.

There are indications, too, that a record vegetable pack is in the making. It's considered likely that tomatoes and tomato products may run to 20 million cases and the total vegetable pack to 32 to 35 million cases. Previous record vegetable pack: 29.2 million cases in 1945.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 7 -

COTTON PRICES RISE ON CROP PROSPECTS - Expectations of a government report below 9,000,000 bales lifted cotton futures as much as \$3 a bale in the short Saturday session on the New York Cotton Exchange.

Short crop opinion was bolstered by the narrow range of private production estimates, all under the 9,000,000 bale mark. The lowest of the five private forecasts issued last week set the crops as of October 1 at 8,932,000 bales and the highest at approximately 8,988,000 bales, with an average of 8,955,000. On Saturday, a cotton market service advocated holding a long position in the staple until the Government report to be released on October 8. Opinion on the floor held that prices had discounted for a crop sharply under the official total of 9,171,000 on September 1.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 2 -

WORKERS DIP, CROPS ARE UP-Chicago, Ill.--(AP)--Farmers produced 45% more food in 1945 than in 1918 with fewer workers, Asher Hobson, head of the department of agricultural economics at the University of Wisconsin, said Wednesday.

Hobson said in a talk prepared for delivery to the American Meat institute's forty-first annual meeting that the increase was achieved with around 2,000,000 fewer male farm workers 14 years old or older than in 1918, and with "very little, if any" increase in acres.

He said the reasons for the increase in agricultural production included improved machinery and tillage methods, use of higher yielding seeds, increased use of fertilizer, and the reduction in the number of draft animals, which resulted in the release of millions of acres of crop and pasture land for food growing.

Hobson stated farm production would remain high during the current year and estimated it would continue "at something like 25% above the pre-war average of 1935-'39."

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From St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 3 -

BLACK MARKET IN MEAT NEARLY ENDED, SAYS OPA-Washington-(AP)--The meat shortage has hit the black market, too.

Irving M. Gruber, chief of OPA's meat price enforcement, told a reporter today that his 2500 agents stamped out virtually all illicit traffic in meat the first month of resumed price control. He said OPA agents "are literally keeping a 24-hour watch on all big stocks of meat to see that if they move, they move under ceiling prices."

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said current hog ceilings are not and will not be "particularly favorable" for greater output, because the price of corn is out of line with the hog ceiling.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 3 -

EXPECT NATIONS TO PAY FOR OWN FOOD IN 1947-Washington-While the United States does not intend to let any nation go hungry through inability to buy food after the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration winds up its European operations on Dec. 31, this country sees no reason why UNRRA claimants cannot make arrangement to pay for their food imports in the coming year, a State Department official has said.

A United Nations committee is expected to study the contention of some UNRRA claimants that free food shipments are necessary in the coming year, but will probably not make a report before early or mid December, the official stated.

Even if the committee recommends some kind of continued free feeding program in special cases, the United States retains full freedom of action in reaching a decision on its future action.

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From The Boston Herald, Oct. 3 -

MEAT'S VICIOUS CIRCLE-Editorial-The political implications of the Administration's price control program have several Massachusetts Democrats in a tizzy, but their acrobatics of logic fall short of Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's trapeze-swinging. Mr. Anderson has just attested that meat is short because of price control, so price control must be continued because meat is short.

Well, not precisely that, but in effect so. Under the OPA extension law of last July, the secretary of agriculture is required to list on the first of each month all agricultural commodities in short supply, and only these may be price-controlled. Mr. Anderson's October 1 statement includes meat in the short list. But as he pointed out in an address at Albuquerque, "I must deal with pork and mutton and beef" and not with beef cattle, which are abundant.

President Truman will argue until the cows come home that the "glut" of meat in the summer, and not price control, is what is keeping the cattle from becoming beef. But there is ample evidence that the livestock farmers are holding back for higher prices, and whether or not this is a nice thing to do, it has bountiful precedents in the activities of various labor unions. The point to be made is that price control, which is holding up supply, is to be continued because the supply is held up.

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From Detroit Free Press, Oct. 3 -

PITY THE SECRETARY-Editorial-The man in the middle on the meat shortage problem is Secretary of Agriculture Anderson.

Production of meat in July and August was substantially above pre-war levels. Yet Anderson designated it as a scarce item and thereby put it back under price ceilings.

After that it became really scarce--in the retail markets, at least.

There are, by Anderson's own announcement, 80,000,000 cattle (52,000,000 of them beef) in the Country right now. Price control is what is keeping them off the market and preventing the law of supply and demand from both leveling off prices and eliminating black markets.

But to remove price controls, the Secretary must say that the meat supply is now adequate. Having declared it inadequate when meat was plentiful, he is going to look very nonsensical, indeed, if he reverses himself in the midst of famine.

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From Iowa Farm Register, Oct. 2 -

MOST IOWA CORN SAFE FROM FROST-Iowa's corn crop made excellent progress toward maturity during the last week and almost all of it is now safe from frost damage.

Reports from all over the state tell of the rapid drying of corn and although frosts have occurred, fairly heavy in some sections, most of the corn already was safe. Little damage has been reported.

Light frosts throughout northwestern Iowa have checked growth of the corn but without damage to the crop. Harvesting will begin in the near future.

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OCT 10 1946

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A: Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 8 -

RANCHERS DECLARE OPA BLOCKS MEAT-Ft. Worth, Tex.-The meat situation in the East will not improve as long as Government controls through the Office of Price Administration continue, Joe G. Montague, counsel for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, said today. He blamed official muddling for the present shortage and added that only by decontrolling beef will there be any relief.

"Most feeders in this area," he continued, are "scared to death" to stock up on cattle while there is a ceiling price on cattle on the hoof and no ceiling on grain.

"If the Government would decontrol beef there would be a vast improvement in the situation," he said.

Mr. Montague says that any move on the part of the Federal Government to seize cattle on the ranges, as reported here, is ridiculous and would not answer the meat shortage.

"Such a move," he said, "would just make the situation worse. It would be tough on anyone that tried to confiscate those cattle."

West Texas ranchers, the spokesman for the association said, also resent implications from Washington that they are on a "sit-down strike" and are not producing cattle in order to defeat the price control. Ranchers, he declared, are selling all cattle fit to go to the market.

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PACKER WINS SUIT ON MEAT PAYMENT-Washington-As the Administration continued today to look for a solution to the meat problem, the United States Court of Claims held in a test case that a meat packer was entitled to recover the full replacement cost of meat taken by Government requisition, even though he was paid the OPA ceiling price.

The 4-to-0 decision may have far-reaching effects on the legal standing of OPA maximum price ceilings.

The decision was interpreted as upholding the principle of "just compensation" as a judicial function and not as something which could be set by an administrative agency such as OPA. An immediate appeal to the Supreme Court is expected because of the importance of the decision, both as a matter of procedure implications and of the money involved.

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MEAT PRICES KITED BY BLACK MARKET-Black marketers of meat, squeezed between the supply scarcity and relentless enforcement activity by the Government are jacking up their prices, a survey indicated yesterday. An overcharge of nearly 200 percent above the ceiling price for sirloin steak was the most flagrant case reported by agents of the OPA, continuing a daily check-up on Sept. 11, when meat ceilings took effect again at retail. Yesterday's check-up showed black market prices ranging from 40 cents to almost a dollar a pound above the ceiling, according to the district OPA.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in - - - - today's N.Y. Times.)

Farm Digest 2195-46

From New York Times, Oct. 8 -

BUTCHERS LACKING MEAT, HALT NEWARK SHIPMENTS-Newark-Meat-hungry butchers converged today on independent slaughter houses here today and halted all shipments of meat while demanding "Jersey meat for Jersey butchers."

The dealers, members of the New Jersey Federation of Kosher Butchers and the Retail Butchers Association of New Jersey, said slaughterers had refused to sell meat to New Jersey butchers at ceiling prices, but had been selling to out-of-State retailers at black-market prices.

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U.S. FOOD DISPOSAL CRITICIZED AS 'LAX'-Trenton-Federal farm authorities were charged today by Federal District Judge Phillip Forman with lax supervision of an experiment feeding livestock with surplus potatoes. Sentencing a Hunterdon County farmer on charges of conspiracy to sell his potato allotments, the judge accused the officials of "gross and great waste of food in a world hungering for such staples."

The farmer, Elmer Salisbury, of Oldwick, was sentenced to a year and a day in prison. His associate was Walter A. Liedtke, a truckman, of Columbus. He received a suspended sentence and was fined \$1,500. The offense was committed a year ago.

The men were charged with selling in the open market for \$17,498 about thirty-five carloads of potatoes that Salisbury had received free from the Government for dairy feed. Salisbury was assigned 100 carloads by the Department of Agriculture from Government-purchased surpluses.

"The lack of effective supervision the Government gives to this business is inconceivable," Judge Forman declared. "The agencies in this case turned over nearly a mile of potatoes. This waste is not very intelligent."

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INDUSTRY DEMANDS COFFEE DECONTROL-Basing its demands on the grounds that there is more than an adequate supply of coffee to meet work requirements and that there is no reason to anticipate any unusual increase in consumer prices if decontrol is effected, the coffee industry advisory committee to the Office of Price Administration filed yesterday a formal petition with the agency for decontrol.

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FEDERATION SCORES APPAREL CONTROLS-Reversing a position held since its inception a year ago, the National Federation of Apparel Associations went on record yesterday in favor of immediate abolition of all controls on apparel manufacturing, it was announced following a meeting of its board of directors in the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Government controls under present conditions, it was held, are defeating the purposes for which they were created and the shortages and prices on apparel cannot be brought to a proper figure with a continuation of controls.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 8 -

GERMAN '46 GRAIN HARVEST SEEN OFF, Berlin - The harvest of bread grains in the United States occupation zone of Germany will be approximately equal to that of 1945, but the potato crop will be smaller, the American Military Government's weekly report said today.

The sugar beet crop will be materially larger than last year's, but the harvest of edible oil seeds is expected to be "very poor.".....

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COTTON AWAITING BUREAU REPORT - Cotton futures marked time despite wide fluctuations in price on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The market appeared to be awaiting the official Government estimate on production as of Oct. 1 to be released today.

The market appeared to have discounted a bureau report of slightly under 9,000,000 bales. The trade generally seemed hesitant to make commitments until the officials report today.

Opinion on production among traders both in New York and in New Orleans was averaged as substantially under the flat figure. In New York, the average was 8,852,000 bales and in New Orleans 8,886,000 bales. Another private survey of the crop set the figure at 8,902,000 bales. Weather conditions since Oct. 1 were reported to have lowered the totals even further.

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BEET SHIPMENTS ORDERED EAST - To help alleviate the sugar shortage in the East, the Government has requested United States beet sugar processors to ship 1,000,000 bags of sugar into Ohio, Indiana and four counties in the Panhandle of West Virginia, in addition to 250,000 bags into Texas during the fourth quarter of 1946.

In the third quarter the Government had requested shipment of 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 bags into the so-called deficit areas. It is estimated, however, that only about 1,250,000 bags were shipped because of the limited stock available.

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RICE MARKET - The rice trade is studying the effects of unfavorable weather in the rice belt, for the development of heavy rains in many sections of Texas and Louisiana and the cold weather spell in Arkansas came at a time when a good part of the crop was at maturity and in the first named States, harvest was well underway. There is now the question of damage to rice already cut and the prospects of further deterioration to the late sown grain that was near maturity.

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BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES AGAIN RISE - Market position in butter very firm with an advancing price trend. The extent of the price rise has, however, been held slightly in check both through fear of possible later imposition of price ceilings and through some greater consumer resistance at the retail rates existing. Total butter supplies rule far short of normal for the season.

Total demand for all styles of cheese rules extremely broad and the market shows increased firmness. Major strength is coming from active buying interest at interior points, where prices moved again higher late last week.

(See page 4)

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Farm Digest 2195-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 8 (Cont.)

FURTHER ADVANCES SCORED BY CORN - With corn again showing the way, grain futures at Chicago recorded further substantial advances during early trading yesterday, but increasing realizing sales were encountered on the bulge and forced partial setbacks.

Strengthening factors continued to be the scarcity of boxcars, which was retarding the movement of grains from farms and further advances in the cash corn market.

An estimate by the Department of Agriculture that the 1946 world wheat crop was the largest for six years and only 40,000,000 bushels short of the prewar average was somewhat confusing in the wake of a statement by the same Government agency late last week that world wheat supplies were 35 percent below requirements and exerted little or no effect as a market factor.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 8 -

A SOAP CRISIS of the first magnitude is immediately ahead. Chiefly to blame: The meat muddle. The average bar of soap you buy is 50% to 70% tallow. That tallow comes from steers. When steers are kept from markets by O.P.A.-irritated ranchers, it's "no soap" as well as "no steak."

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LIVESTOCK RECEIPTS AT CHICAGO YESTERDAY TOPPED LAST MONDAY, Chicago - Receipts of hogs, cattle and sheep here yesterday were larger than a week ago but total receipts at the country's 12 major markets were under both a week and a year ago. An abnormally heavy proportion were purchased by farmers for further fattening.

At the 12 major markets, cattle receipts yesterday amounted to 97,000 head, compared with 104,000 a week ago and 152,000 a year ago.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman at the Chicago stockyards said 75% of the cattle are "stockers," which sell for further feeding. About 90% of the cattle coming to market now are grass fed animals.....Normally only two-thirds would be range cattle. The rest would be grain fed "fat" cattle. This year most of these fed cattle were sold during the holiday from the O.P.A. The Department of Agriculture official said that not "a dime's worth of improvement in beef supply" is indicated from the way cattle are coming in.

Hog marketings are at even more depressed level. Yesterday, receipts at 12 markets totalled only 7,400 head as against 7,500 a week ago and 24,000 a year ago.

Sheep receipts were 77,000 head, compared with 91,000 a week ago and 78,000 a year ago. A major part of the sheep marketed was sold back to farmers for further feeding.

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AMERICAN STORES CO., GRAND UNION CO. AGREE ON PLAN FOR MERGER, Philadelphia - American Stores Co. has completed preliminary negotiations for the acquisition of the Grand Union Co.

Acquisition of Grand Union would add approximately 320 units to American's chain, which as of December 31, 1945 totaled 1,964 stores. It would give the give the company entry into Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Other Grand Union units are located in N.Y. Penn., and N. J. in which territory American is already established.

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From The New York Times, Oct. '6 -

FARM GROUPS ASK PARITY BASIS SHIFT-Buffalo, (AP)--National farm organization leaders agreed today on a program calling for revision of the parity formula, disposition of crop surpluses, price stabilization and international agricultural cooperation.

The action was taken at a four-day conference of twenty-four farm leaders representing about 4,000,000 farm families.

A joint statement was issued by Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange; Edward A. O'Neal, president of the Farm Bureau Federation, and Quentin Reynolds, president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. It said that "complete harmony as well as unity of purpose prevailed throughout the meeting."

Describing the conference as "one of the most constructive ever held," the statement listed among the major objectives agreed upon:

Revision of the parity formula "to promote development of a yardstick for measuring the basis for a fair relationship between agricultural and industrial goods and services."

Study of a permanent price support program with a view to developing one which would "lead to balanced abundance and efficient use of natural resources."

Increased attention to disposal of surpluses through upgrading of diets and development of new uses for farm surpluses.

Development of "a practical and workable program for adding greater stability to the general price level."

Consideration by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the use of international commodity agreements as a means of achieving more stable agricultural prices and improved world nutrition.

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REPORT FROM THE NATION, Midwest States, Available Stocks of Poultry Beginning to Shrink Fast,--Omaha--In the wake of the severe meat shortage, and because of it, stocks of available poultry in the Midwest are beginning to shrink at an accelerated pace.

Supplies are still large when compared with pre-war standards, but poultry and storage men spotted signs this week that the trend has started in the wrong direction as far as the long-range supply picture is concerned. Some of them, as a result, have been advising farm clients to start all the chicks they can now, in order to supply next spring's market.

Normally, the country's major storage centers lay by a large percentage of their poultry for a year ahead during the September-December period, but not so this year. Poultry men here cited these figures this week to indicate the trend:

From Sept. 3 to Sept. 26, 1945, the ten markets of the country stored 19,336,536 pounds; during the same period of 1946 they lost a total of 11,748,418 pounds through withdrawals.

How rapidly the withdrawal pace has stepped up since the meat scarcity became acute is shown by these industry-quoted figures:

In the four largest poultry markets, withdrawals of poultry for the week ending Sept. 3 were approximately 600,000 pounds; for the week ending Sept. 26 the total had risen to 1,700,000 pounds. And, say these spokesmen, the withdrawal rate can be expected to increase rapidly as other meat supplies become more scarce.

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From The Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 5 -

'SHORTAGE' AMID PLENTY, -Editorial- A bountiful wheat crop has been harvested and a near-record corn crop is assured. Yet these grains and their byproducts remain on the "short supply" list which the secretary of agriculture certifies to the Price Decontrol Board on the first of each month.

This is a paradox which is not explained away by perusal of the price control act. The law says that an agricultural commodity "shall be deemed to be in short supply unless the supply of such commodity equals or exceeds the requirements for such commodity for the current marketing season." The wheat season runs from one July 1 to the next.

So far as known requirements are concerned, both wheat and corn are in ample supply. Taking the 1946 crops into account, there is more grain per animal unit than ever before.

Secretary Anderson may be taking into account the undertermined requirements for overseas. There will be a continuing need for food from America in the direct hunger areas this Winter and next Spring, though Herbert Hoover and others have said the worst of the famine is over. But it is extremely doubtful that enough American grain can or will be shipped abroad to leave an insufficient supply for our needs.

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From The Watertown Daily Times, Oct. 5 -

NEW MILK PRICE BOOST LOOMING-November appeared today destined to be the critical post-war month for dairy farmers of the far-flung New York milkshed with prices being substantially boosted to farmers and the possibility looming that dealer's might increase consumer costs another cent a quart to keep pace.

Where the current price race may lead is beginning to trouble dairy leaders who are reportedly beginning to feel that the only way the situation can be stabilized again is for the federal decontrol board to order price ceilings.

With butter prices to consumers already out of bounds and creeping close to the \$1-a-pound level; with consumer milk prices far out of line on a June 30 basis, and with other dairy products threatening to hit unprecedented levels, dairy experts believe there is every reason for the decontrol board to carry out its threat to reinstate dairy ceilings.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Oct. 4 -

OPEN COTTON PICKER ORGANIZATION DRIVE-Memphis, Tenn.-A drive to organize cotton pickers who live in Memphis and go to the West Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi fields to work daily was begun Wednesday by the National Farm Labor Union.

Barney B. Taylor, organization director of the AFL union, said handbills, urging pickers to remain idle until wage demands are met, were being circulated in the tri-state area.

"The price of cotton is about 38 cents a pound," Taylor said in a prepared statement, "and we believe that the planters can afford to pay \$4 a hundred pounds for picking. The rates being offered now are from \$2 to \$2.50 a hundred."

Taylor reported the union's wage committee agreed to demand \$4 a hundred pounds for picking the 1946 crops, and added that about 5000 cotton pickers lived in the city.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 9 -

SEIZE ALL MEAT AND CATTLE CITY COUNCIL ASKS TRUMAN-New York City's grumbling about its meat famine took tangible form yesterday when the City Council by a vote of nineteen to two called upon President Truman to seize all meat in the country and distribute it fairly.

At the same time the League of Women Shoppers demanded a Federal Grand Jury investigation into the local absence of meat.

Proposed by the Democratic majority in the Council, the city resolution charged that "the meat industry has declared open defiance to the American people by the creation of the a meat famine," and added that "a small segment of the population is depriving all of the people of the United States of a much needed food, thereby endangering our health."

The resolution said that "such action shows contempt for our Government and its laws and disregards the well being of the American people."

The Council resolved to urge President Truman to declare an immediate state of emergency; called upon him to authorize the seizure of all cattle and meat in the country and asked him to make such meat available to the public.

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PACKERS GROUP WILL ASK ANDERSON TO 'FREE' MEAT-Washington-The slow legal process for forcing the decontrol of cattle, beef and veal prices was begun today when the Beef Industry Advisory Committee to the Office of Price Administration approved the filing of a decontrol petition with Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture.

The committee, by an 11 to 1 vote, authorized Chairman Roscoe G. Haynie, vice president of Wilson & Company, Chicago and Robert S. Thomas vice president of the Lima (Ohio) Packing Company, to sign the petition.

In the meantime, the Army announced that it was negotiating with the British to borrow 20,000,000 pounds of Argentine produced beef to feed American troops overseas.

The petition was not filed today, and within fifteen days after Mr. Anderson receives it, he must grant it or tell the committee in writing why, in his judgment, the standards for decontrol had not been satisfied.

It is believed here that the Secretary will reject the petition for the reasons he gave in his recent Albuquerque speech, in which he told livestock producers that "price adjustments are behind us."

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(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's New York Times.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 9 -

INDUSTRIES FORCED TO SHUT AS SUGAR SUPPLIES DWINDLE-New York's sweet tooth has become just a big, hollow ache as the scarcity of sugar, intensified through the nation by the maritime and Hawaiian plantation strikes, is made even worse in the metropolitan area each day by the truck strike. A survey yesterday showed local refineries shut down, pie and cake production reduced, the home-canning program at a standstill, candy makers thrown out of work, many soda fountains and coffee shops closed part of the day and hotel and restaurant men scrapping the bottom of their sugar bowls.

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SHIP PEACE NEARER AS OFFICERS' UNION MODIFIES DEMANDS-The first real break in two weeks of negotiations in Washington offered promise last night of a partial settlement of the costly nation wide maritime strike.

Leaders of the National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots, AFL, announced that the union had agreed in principle to a separate contract with East and Gulf Coast operators, if the other striking union, the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, CIO, would come to terms with employers on the same basis. A meeting was scheduled for this morning for a discussion of the proposition between the union and employers on the East Coast and the Gulf.

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FEDERAL INQUIRY ON MEAT REPORTED-Washington-The Department of Justice, anticipating the current demands for some such action, has been conducting for more than two weeks a highly guarded investigation of the meat shortage, it was reported today in a responsible Congressional quarter.

The department itself withheld any comment spokesmen declining to discuss whether it was taking a hand in the dinner table crisis, which Democratic politicians privately concede has become an issue of the utmost delicacy in the coming elections.

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FOOD DEALERS, MEAT CUTTERS UNION SEEK MEAT BY ENDING CONTROLS-On various fronts labor and industry pressed petition campaigns yesterday for the end of price control as a means of breaking the meat growers' strike and restoring meat to the iceboxes and counters of butcher shops.

In one of the campaigns the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL, has collected 50,000 signatures already although it began gathering them in New York only a week ago, according to Lester E. Travers, organizer.

A wrapping paper petition campaign is being waged by the New York State Merchants Association in New York, Buffalo, Syracuse, Elmira and Rochester, John Traeg, vice president said.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 9 -

PRICES UNSTEADY DESPITE SHORT CROP - Cotton prices reacted nervously to the shortest crop report in 25 years in a fluctuating session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Current crop positions, except the deliverable month, chalked up new highs for the year but increased hedging and profit taking depressed prices by closing.

The 8,724,000 bale estimated crop as of October 1 led to some hesitation on the part of the trade despite its shortening of available supply. This reaction was expected to be temporary because mills had been only moderate buyers during the past month. With unfixed calls covering over 1,760,000 bales, the support of mills, though delayed, was considered inevitable.

Outside interests which had entered the market to a large extent since private predictions had fore-shadowed the low report waited for advances in price before realizing. At the highs of the day, these interests took profit. This, combined with moderate hedging, resulted in loss of the gains made after reopening.

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FLA. CITRUS STORM DAMAGE IS LIGHT, Jacksonville - Early reports on hurricane damage throughout the State indicate only minor loss to citrus fruits in north Florida, with the extent of damage to pecan and vegetable crops undetermined as yet, according to William L. Wilson, director of Florida State Farmers' Markets.

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BUTTER AGAIN UP IN ACTIVE TRADE - Continued extreme firmness in the country's butter markets under decidedly broad competition to secure restricted supplies. Price levels have lately risen further. With retail prices now generally ranging 90c to 95c some up to \$1, consumer resistance is beginning to develop. There seems little current chance that Washington officials will reimpose price ceilings on the dairy group for the time being at least.

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ADVANCE IN CORN FUTURES CONTINUES - Indecisive price swings marked morning trading in grain futures at Chicago yesterday with the exception of corn which moved forward a further 7/8c to 1½c a bushel aided by a firm cash market and the continued scarcity of box cars.

Considerable closing out of spreads was under way in the corn pit with January being sold and May bought at a premium of about 4½c for the nearby position. Premiums being commanded for immediate delivery reflected anxiety over the box car situation and limited quantities currently available.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 2205-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 9 -

DISAPPOINTING SUGAR SUPPLIES - Editorial - Sugar supplies this year have been disappointing. Harvests were below expectations in both Cuba and Puerto Rico, and urgent import demands from devastated areas further cut into the domestic supply. Hence, no liberalization of rations can now be considered.

Is there any relief from the acute sugar shortage in sight for 1947? The Department of Agriculture is mildly optimistic. The 20 per cent increase in the domestic beet sugar acreage and prospects for somewhat larger crops from Cuba and Puerto Rico are the most promising developments. The revival of beet sugar production in Europe should reduce import demands from that Continent, leaving more West Indian sugar for United States needs. Since beets are an annual crop, production can be restored for quicker than is possible in cane growing areas.

Since no sugar is expected in this country from the Philippines in 1947, however, the supply situation will remain tight at best. Under these circumstances, we may expect that authority will be sought to continue sugar rationing through all of next year, although a liberalization of the industrial allotment from 60 to 75 or 80 per cent of the 1941 base consumption may be feasible by the March quarter of 1947.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 9 -

SYNTHETIC FIBRE SLASHES INTO COTTON'S MONOPOLY, Akron - Rayon has sprinted into a showdown race with cotton to supply the basic fabric for America's multi-million auto tires. The synthetic fibre will this year take about two-fifths of the 500-million-pound fabric business of the tire makers.

It would be slicing off an even bigger chunk of that business if rayon producers, now operating their tire cord facilities near capacity, could meet tire plant demands. Because there's not enough rayon, only about one tire out of four now being made has rayon in it. These are truck tires and passenger car tires of the larger sizes. If your car uses a size 6.00 or smaller casing, you don't get a rayon cord tire.

A few figures show how far rayon has come in the tire world since pre-war days. In 1940, tire producers put 11 million pounds of rayon and 284 million pounds of cotton into their product. This year, making far more tires, they'll use nearly 200 million pounds of rayon and about 300 million pounds of cotton.

That's a 5% increase in cotton use, but it's vertical climb of nearly 1,700% in the use of rayon

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BRITAIN DENIES REPORT THAT LIVERPOOL COTTON EXCHANGE WILL REOPEN, London - The British Board of Trade has denied a report in the London News Chronicle that the Cabinet has decided to reopen the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. To the contrary, arrangements are being made to establish a government cotton buying commission. The necessary legislation to set up that organization will be introduced at the next session of Parliament. The British government will be the sole importer and distributor.

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From The Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 6 -

MEAT FAMINE BREEDS DANGER--OPENS GATE TO DEADLY VIRUSES--If this meat shortage keeps up much longer, your health may be affected.

In addition to the annoyance and discomfort caused by having continually to sit down to a table bare of meat, there is the more important fact that with an insufficient supply of meat your body cells will very likely receive an inadequate supply of proteins.

And if your body cells receive an inadequate supply of proteins, you will become increasingly more susceptible to such virus diseases as influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and the like. And not only will you become more susceptible to them, but also less able to fight off their effects once you are attacked.

This doesn't mean a prolonged meat shortage will cause a flu epidemic this Winter--but it might help. And if a flu epidemic does come, a prolonged meat shortage would certainly help it grow.

For the truth of the above you have the word of Dr. Douglas Sprunt, professor of pathology and chief of the Division of Bacteriology at the University of Tennessee. For the past three years he has been making a study of resistance to virus diseases on a grant of \$22,000 from the John and Mary Markle Foundation of New York.

"There are other sources of animal proteins, such as fowl, fish, milk, cheese and eggs, but the adult body needs meat to strongly resist virus diseases," Dr. Sprunt said.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 5 -

FLAYS PACKERS FOR 'HOARDING'--Hoarding of meat by packers who are hoping for a rise in prices was blamed as the cause of the meat shortage by H. L. Ebling, deputy district director of the Milwaukee OPA office, Saturday on "OPA Time" over WTMJ, The Milwaukee Journal station.

Ebling added that there was nothing illegal in hoarding meat but that the meat being stored was way above average.

"When demand is high and production low, meat should be moving out of storage, not into it," Ebling said.

Ebling said he regretted the rise in dairy prices and asked that the public not blame the high cost of butter on the OPA.

"We can do nothing about it," Ebling said. "We would like to get dairy prices back in line, but we are prevented from doing it by law. If the de-control board decides to recontrol dairy products, however, OPA will be on hand to carry out its wishes."

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From The New York Times, Oct. 6 -

THE MYSTERY OF NEW YORK'S MEAT--Besides asking themselves where their next steak is coming from--and when--New Yorkers are seeking the answer to this riddle: How can a few independent meat merchants do a land-office business at ceiling prices when the big packers have brought their business to a virtual standstill on the ground that they can't buy livestock at prices to give them a legal profit?

Three retail shops in the Fort Greene Market area of Brooklyn did such a thumping trade last week that the police had to keep the crowds in line.

There were as many as 4,000 people on a single waiting line, and it was estimated that fifty tons of meat were delivered to the three outlets in one day.

From The Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 7 -

CONGRESSMAN SABATH'S LIES-Editorial-Half-a-Congressman Sabath has been charging that the reason people can't buy meat is that the packers and others are hoarding it, hoping that a shortage will end OPA meat control. In this, as in most other matters, this senile blatherskite is following the Communist party line. He has now been proved a liar by his own New Deal department of agriculture, which regularly collects statistics on the amount of meat held in public storage.

These official figures show that if all the cold storage meat in the country were put on the market immediately it would feed the American people for only five days. Furthermore, the warehouses and the refrigerating plants, instead of being glutted with meat and lard, are holding far less than a normal supply. The total amount of beef, pork, lamb, mutton, and lard held in storage on Sept. 1 was only a little more than half as much as was held a year ago and less than two-fifths of the average on Sept. 1 thru the last five years.

Local figures, gathered by the state department of agriculture, show that the meat in storage has dropped off rapidly since the federal statistics were published a month ago. Chicago, the world's packing center, has 34 million pounds of meat in cold storage. Beef and pork storage has dropped 26 per cent. Chicago warehouses contain the reserve supply not merely for this city, but also for the people of 10 states who are supplied from this market.

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From The Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 7 -

JOHNSTON ON OPA-Editorial-A rock-like support for the OPA crumbled on Saturday when Eric Johnston demanded that all wage and price controls except those on rents be abolished immediately.

A former president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and now "czar" of the movie industry, Mr. Johnston previously had been one of the leading advocates of price control among American businessmen.

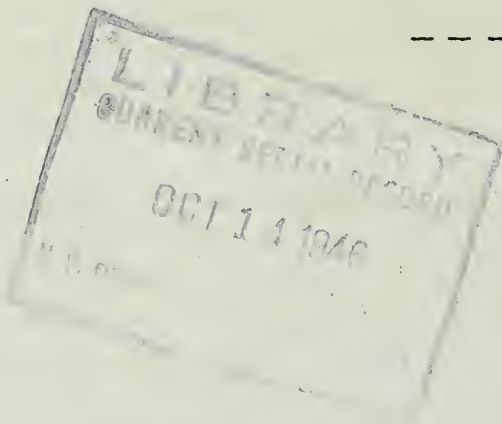
Declaring that he believed that "the original sin was committed when we started relaxing controls too early," Mr Johnston, in his new viewpoint, is in sharp conflict with that of OPA Director Paul Porter, who nevertheless admitted that "valuable ground has been lost in the last three months."

Whether or not Mr. Johnston's original support of controls "to assist the country over the tough period of reconversion" was wise now becomes academic.

Of prime importance is the fact that a nationally known business leader has acknowledged the failure of an agency he once supported. It now requires a high-powered pair of rose-tinted spectacles plus optimism verging upon idiocy to believe that OPA is effectively holding back the rising tide of prices.

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Farm Digest 2205-46-6



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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 10 -

EMERGENCY ACTION ON MEAT SEEN IN WHITE HOUSE-Washington-High Government officials concerned with the national meat crisis conferred for two and a half hours in the East Wing of the White House late yesterday.

Senator James M. Mead of New York predicted earlier in the day prompt emergency action, but those of the White House conference issued no statement. The conviction that the meeting was of a special emergency nature was, nevertheless, hard to down.

The statement by Senator Mead, who is Democratic candidate for Governor of New York, followed a telephone conversation from New York to President Truman. In it Senator Mead said that he was "hopeful" that "emergency action" would be "taken very promptly by Government officials handling the meat shortage."

"The American people should have an adequate supply of meat and they should have it now. It is the duty of the Government to see to it that they get it now," Senator Mead asserted, putting the last "now" in capital letters.

Those conferring at the White House on a shortage which is plaguing Administration politically these last few weeks before the election included John R. Steelman, Reconversion Director; Secretary of Agriculture, Anderson and Price Administrator Porter.

Among the conferees were Postmaster General Hannegan, who is also chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

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PACKERS CHARGE OPA IGNORES ILLICIT SALE OF CATTLE IN TEXAS-Fort Worth-Cut in this Texas cattle country, packers bound by Office of Price Administration ceilings and unable to bid against illegitimate operators, charge that there is an open black market in steers and calves at the Fort Worth stock yards. They add that they have to be content with buying "a few old cows" and content that the OPA "winks" at the illicit movement of cattle.

Henry Neuhooff Jr., member of the OPA Meat Advisory Committee and a director of the National Independent Meat Packers Association said today that present compliance regulations "handcuff" the legitimate packer and provide open sesame for the buyer indifferent to regulations. He asserted that most choice grades of beef are shuttling from the Fort Worth yards to the black market.

(Turn to page 2 for other items
in today's New York Times.)

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From New York Times, Oct. 10 --

NEW YORK SLAUGHTERING RISES ON INDEPENDENTS' ACTIVITY- A faint ray of hope broke through yesterday for New York's meat starved millions as independent slaughterers increased their operations in a field virtually deserted by the major packers.

Simultaneously, political developments--including a City Hall meeting of Mayor O'Dwyer with most of the Democratic Representatives from this city--followed Tuesday's action of the City Council in urging President Truman to seize all meat in the country and distribute it fairly.

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A RECKLESS RESOLUTION-Editorial-The City Council, by a vote of nineteen to two, has called upon President Truman to authorize the seizure of all cattle and meat in the country and make it available to the public. This is an irresponsible resolution passed either in ignorance or disregard of the obvious causes of the meat shortage. The price-fixing authorities left foodstuffs free of controls and reimposed ceilings on meat. Many cattle raisers and feeders, fearing a profit squeeze, rushed steers and hogs to market, whether fully fattened or not, to take advantage of the temporary free market while it lasted. They then decided it would be more profitable to fatten the cattle left on the ranges and feed lots and sell them when meat ceilings expired next June or were removed earlier. They did not have to enter into any "conspiracy" to make this decision; individual cattle raisers merely followed the course that obviously seemed most profitable to each of them.

There could not be a clearer case of price-fixing's producing a shortage. The obvious remedy for the situation is definitely to terminate the price ceilings on meat. Only two members of the City Council had the clear-headedness to recognize this.

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TOBACCO CONTROLS ARE LIFTED BY OPA-Washington-The Office of Price Administration announced today it will end all price controls over services connected with marketing, handling and processing of tobacco and tobacco products effective Friday.

The announcement said services involve "an administrative burden out of line with the benefit to the stabilization program."

"Effect (of the action) upon prices of cigarettes and other tobacco products cannot be determined because tobacco has been on a free market," an OPA official said.

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DEMAND SHARE OF BEEF-Newark-Four hundred members of the Independent Retail Butchers of New Jersey and the State Federation of Kosher Butchers combined this morning in a march from Military Park to City Hall to present a demand for a share of the beef now being slaughtered in northern New Jersey and allegedly being sold in the black market in New York.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Oct. 10 -

TRUMAN AIDES POND R WAYS TO END MEAT SHORTAGE, Washington - A livestock certificate plan--a sort of promissory note to see that farmers benefit from future price advances--may be advanced to bring livestock to slaughter and meat to the consumers' table before Election Day. This proposal was believed to have been brought before a hurriedly called session of President Truman's top economic and political advisers late yesterday.

The Justice Department reported that an intensive investigation had revealed no evidence of conspiracy, or collusive action, among packers and feeders to create a meat shortage.

Present at the strategy conference on meat was Postmaster General Hannegan, who, as Democratic National Chairman, has been bearing the brunt of the "grass roots" complaints about the meat shortage. Also attending the President's legal expert, Clark Clifford; Reconversion Director Steelman; O.P.A. chief Paul Porter; Agriculture Secretary Anderson; Assistant Secretary of State Clayton; Robert Shields, head of the Department of Agriculture's production and marketing division, and Richard Field, O.P.A.'s chief legal adviser.

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FAHINE ALTERS IDEAS - The meat shortage hasn't starved anybody yet, but it's affecting peoples minds. A coast-to-coast survey shows staid habits of thoght are being shaken.....

Cut in the Pacific Northwest, for instance, the C.I.O.'s national policy has been flung to the winds by the hungry executive secretary of the Oregon State Industrial Union Council (C.I.O.), Mr. Stanley Earl. Says he: "All controls ought to be removed except rent, and then probably we'd get some meat." As an afterthought, he adds: "I also mean that wage controls should be removed too."

Mr. Earl is a good way ahead of most of his colleagues in the C.I.O. but others are beginning to wonder. An official of the United Steelworkers, in the big Homestead District near Pittsburgh says his people are still working every day, without meat. But the situation is "a lot more dangerous than it looks."

Employers' thinking has perhaps been affected as much as workers'. Up in Maine, more and more lumber and pulpwood operators are following the lead of Great Northern Paper Co. and Hollingsworth & Whitney Co. They are buying their own steers in the Midwest, bringing them to New England, fattening them a bit and slaughtering them there. Men running a big aircraft plant outside Seattle had this situation doped out ahead of time. While meat was available they bought up stocks and chucked them into cold storage. Now the firm is serving beef and lamb in de luxe style at its huge cafeteria.

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LIVESTOCK: For the first time since September 1, the cattle run at Chicago yesterday was made up largely of fed steers and heifers. Good and choice kinds continued at the \$20.25 ceiling. All beef cows were 25 cents lower but vealers were active at \$18 and canners, cutters, and bulls ranged from steady to weak. Stock cattle moved up at the top as much as 50c, good and choice offerings meriting \$17 to \$18.50, but common and medium grades went slightly weaker at \$13.50 to \$15.50.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 10 -

MORRELL RESUMES SLAUGHTER, Ottumwa, Iowa - Slaughtering operations will be resumed on a limited basis at the John Morrell & Co. plant here Monday, President G. H. Foster announced today.

The company announced that live stock receipts have increased to a point where it is possible to resume operations with reduced crew.

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OFFICIAL PREDICTS QUICK ACTION TO SOLVE MEAT PUZZLE, Ottawa - Britain and Canada have signed a new beef contract providing for the purchase by Britain of a minimum of 120,000,000 pounds of Canadian beef in 1947 and a maximum of 120,000,000 pounds in 1948, Agriculture Department sources disclosed today.

For the 1947 purchases the prices paid will be the same as those in effect since Aug. 19 this year, when rates on top quality beef were raised approximately 2c a pound, while for 1948 they will not be less than those prices in effect before Aug. 19.

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TO RECONSIDER DAIRY RECONTROL, Washington - Although the Office of Price Administration believes that dairy product prices have risen too high and would like to see them recontrolled tentative price ceilings suggested by the Department of Agriculture are so high that the price agency does not now believe it would be worth the trouble to reinstate ceilings, it was disclosed today.

The Price Decontrol Board, which twice previously declined to reinstate dairy product ceilings, is due to consider the proposal again on Oct. 16, but may meet earlier if data requested from OPA and USDA is available.

Significantly, the data which PDB is reported to have requested from the two other agencies concerns possible levels of maximum prices in the event that the board decided upon recontrol. PDB does not want to be in the position of ordering recontrol and then having the two agencies dispute the new price level.

- - -

RESISTANCE MOUNTS TO BUTTER PRICES - Extreme firmness still prevails in butter markets of the country with active competition to secure supplies. This is extending through the interior and through terminal points, where more than the usual premiums prevail and quality discrimination is not important. However, there is beginning to be more consumer resistance at retail rates ranging 91c to \$1.

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From The Iowa Democrat And Leader, Oct. 6 -

LITTLE HOPE FOR RELIEF OF MEAT SHORTAGE-Waterloo, Iowa-(AP)-It will be another six weeks before midwest farmers start sending any significant supplies of meat animals to market, a sampling of the 200,000 farmers attending the Dairy Cattle Congress here during the past week showed in a survey conducted by the Farm Service department of radio station WMT, Cedar Rapids and Waterloo.

The survey indicated these conclusions:

Only a trickle of cornbelt hogs will move to market before late November. Farmers are feeding their animals to heavier weights as a result of a bumper of corn crop and continuing top prices on over weight hogs.

Hog marketings will increase gradually from late November until the first of the year, reaching a peak around the holiday season. Relatively few farmers intend to hold their animals off the market until after Jan. 1 for tax purposes.

Cornbelt cattle feeders will be sending almost no fat stock to market before next February. They are buying relatively few feeder cattle because of the high price level on these animals, and what they do buy will be fed out slowly to go on the market after price ceilings are removed.

Over two thirds of the farmers surveyed believed price ceilings would be off by next spring. But if they remain in effect until the scheduled date of June 30, most feeders said they would hold on to their cattle until then.

The survey indicated farmers were not holding back meat in a protest against OPA nor as a means of political pressure in the fall election.

The condition of his animals and the price picture appeared to be the only factors determining when a farmer would sell his livestock.

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From The Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 4 -

FUROR FOLLOWS CHICAGO REPORT OF MEAT STORAGE-Chicago, Ill. (UP)-Disclosure that 45,000,000 pounds of fresh meat, not 18,000,000 pounds as asserted Thursday, is stacked in Chicago cold storage plants touched off a bitter argument in the nation's meat packing capital.

Packers themselves disclosed that 45,000,000 pounds were in storage after a Chicago newspaper had cited the 18,000,000 figure, exclusive of army holdings.

While meat packers indignantly denied that the meat was being hoarded, leaders of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers declared that the "expose" confirmed the union's charge "that there is a definite conspiracy engineered by the big packing companies to deprive the public of meat."

Union spokesmen issued the statement at a meeting with several Chicago congressmen and called for a federal investigation into "hoarding" and federal intervention in the meat industry.

Some housewives, angered by reports of the meat held in refrigerated warehouses, telephoned packers to protect. Several women, carrying signs which read, "Unfreeze That Meat" and "You've Got It, We Want It, Let's Have It," picketed two cold storage company plants.

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From The Boston Herald, Oct. 8 -

~~PRICES SKYROCKET AS FISH BOOM SPRINGS FROM MEAT SHORTAGE~~-Skyrocketing prices for fish in Boston, the nation's biggest fishing port, cut sharply into the housewife's food budget yesterday, at a point where most families had been hopeful that seafood substitutes would carry them through the meat famine.

With more than 2,000,000 pounds of fish landed in Boston yesterday, the largest single day's receipts this year, a boom in the industry was clearly underway. Sales leaped 50 per cent, and prices soared stupendously, to be passed along to the consumer.

As for the consumer, he discovered yesterday that if fish were to be the only way out of the meat shortage, it would be a costly way. Mackerel, which used to retail at six or seven cents a pound, brought 29 cents a pound yesterday. Haddock fillets, once sold at 18 cents a pound, had increased to 55 cents.

Other prices for fresh fish, which are not subject to OPA controls, included: porgies, 52 cents; fresh cod fillets, 49; cod steak, 45; sea trout, 39; cape scallops, \$1.50 a pound; and swordfish, \$1.10 a pound.

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From The St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 7 -

~~LIGHT ON AN OPA ISSUE~~-Editorial- In the high excitement about shortages of meat, the argument that just a little while ago was on everybody's lips is now overshadowed and forgotten.

Would consumers be better off or worse off, on a sheer basis of cost, with OPA meat ceilings or without them?

Such was the \$64 dollar question that, until the ceilings actually went back on, had everybody hot and bothered.

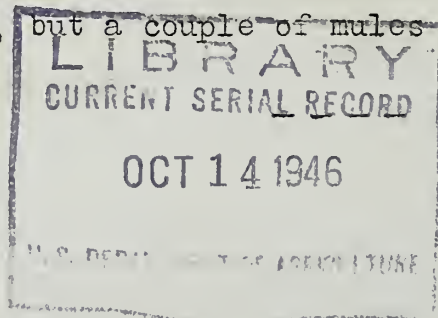
Today, in most parts of the country, including the Twin Cities, that problem isn't even being mentioned. In most places it has become just an academic question. So little meat is available in the legitimate markets that the savings per pound on the trifling quantities offered add up to totals that are too insignificant to cheer up most shoppers. Since the OPA ceilings went back on, the sheer struggle to buy enough meat for the family to get by on has put the formerly dominant issue of price per pound in the shade. That is the case in most of the population centers.

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From The Detroit Free Press, Oct. 7 -

~~INCLUDING THE BRAY~~-Editorial-Butch La Guardia, who is long on oratory and short on biology, explained to a press conference that mules shipped by UNRRA to Yugoslavia were for breeding purposes. What Butch overlooked is the fact that mules are hybrids and cannot breed.

It just goes to show that an UNRRA director can't make a jackass out of a couple of mules, but a couple of mules can sure make a jackass out of an UNRRA director.



Farm Digest 2215-46-6

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For October 11, 1946)

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 11 -

CABINET TO STUDY MEAT CRISIS TODAY; INDUSTRY FILES DECONTROL PETITION-Washington-President Truman joined personally today in the White House conferences of high officials trying to solve the country's meat shortage.

At the end of the meeting his press secretary, Charles Ross, said that any decision would ultimately be up to Mr. Truman, and that he would review the situation again with the Cabinet at its regular meeting tomorrow.

The conference was the fourth this week of high officials concerned with the meat shortage, but it was the first Mr. Truman attended. Others present were:

Robert E. Hannegan, Postmaster General; Tom C. Clark, Attorney General; O. Max Gardner, Under Secretary of the Treasury; Paul Porter, Price Administrator; William L. Clayton, Under Secretary of State; Richard H. Field of the OPA; Robert H. Shields of the Agriculture Department; Clark Clifford, the President's legal counsel, and John Steelman, reconversion director, in whose offices the conferences were held.

At an earlier press conference, the President said that no executive action in the meat shortage was imminent.

Preceding the news conference, there were the following developments in the meat situation:

The OPA Beef Industry Advisory Committee filed its decontrol petition with Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture. The petition denied there was a shortage of cattle, and an industry spokesman predicted meat would be back on the counters "very soon" if controls were lifted.

The Argentine Ambassador, Oscar Ivanissevich, called on Secretary Anderson and offered Argentine canned beef.

The OPA announced that retail veal prices would be raised 3 to 9 cents a pound, and many beef and pork cuts would be 1 or 2 cents a pound higher. It was emphasized that the increases had no connection with the meat shortage.

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ANDERSON WILL ACT ON PETITION QUICKLY-Geneva, N.Y. (AP)-Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, said tonight that "prompt action" would be taken on the OPA beef industry advisory committee's petition for removal of controls. He did not say, however, what that action would be.

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WINTER DROP SEEN IN POULTRY PRICES-Washington-Poultry prices, which have been climbing steadily in recent weeks, have reached their peak levels and should show a declining trend by the beginning of next year and possibly sooner, Government officials said today.

(Turn to page 2 for other items - - - -
in today's N.Y. Times.)

From New York Times, Oct. 11 -

CITY HAS SHORTAGES IN 50 FOOD ITEMS-When housewives went to their food stores yesterday in New York and many other cities, and reached the counters after standing in line, they found many necessary items in short supply and some unobtainable.

A canvass of the food stores, made with the aid of industry executives showed a shortage or dearth in the following items: Meat: refrigerated and processed-Meat substitutes: canned fish, canned soups, eggs, cheese (except spreads) and legumes. Fats and oils and oil products: lard, olive oil, oil, shortening, salad dressing, margarine, mayonnaise, soap, soap flakes, soap power, laundry soap. Sugar and sugar substitutes; corn syrup, corn sugar, molasses, maple syrup, candies, saccharine, raisins, jams, jellies, preserves and flavored gelatine. Canned goods: canned fruit juices, fruits and vegetables, especially canned tomatoes. Cakes and biscuits. Coffee, Milk, fresh and canned, Toilet tissue and paper napkins.

In all, forty to fifty items appear rarely on the shelves or on the counters of food stores or not at all.

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UNION SAYS MEAT IS POLITICAL PAWN-Washington-The United Packing House Workers, CIO, asserted today that ample supplies of beef cattle were available and accused chain store operators and large packers of damming normal supply channels for political as well as economic purposes.

The union challenged Government agencies to disprove its contention that 600,000 to 800,000 head of cattle were grazing on feed lots and that "The market conditions of much of the cattle surpasses those which have been slaughtered in normal times."

Ralph Helstein, president, and Lewis J. Clark, secretary-treasurer of the union, said they had made their own investigation and laid the findings before officials of the Justice and Agriculture Departments. The union's statement held the farmers generally blameless.

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CATTLE DIVERSION FOUND AT FT. WORTH-Fort Worth, Tex.-Here at one of the sources of the country's beef supply, the report that thousands of head of cattle that would normally be leaving the stockyards for legitimate markets or feeder lots were being bought up and consigned to slaughterers moving the stock into the black market, was verified today by W. L. Pier, vice president, of the United Stock Yards Corporation and general manager of the Fort Worth division.

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MEAT CRISIS-Editorial-The meat crisis is producing a wide variety of plans for its solution but thus far little meat. Requisitioning of cattle and meat supplies, investigations of alleged conspiracy, imports from Argentina, payment of price incentives, fixing the prices for substitute products and elimination of price control are among the proposals made. What hope do these various plans really offer?

There is no good reason to believe that the requisitioning of cattle or inventories of meat can relieve the present shortage. These proposals for requisitioning provide a perfect illustration of how one control leads to another. Meat price control breaks down so the solution is assumed to be additional Government control

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 11 -

SYNTHETIC RUBBER INDUSTRY FACES SHARP CURTAILMENT FOR LACK OF SOAP SUPPLIES, Washington - Synthetic rubber plants face sharp curtailment within 30 days unless the normal flow of tallow from slaughtering establishments to soap kettles is quickly resumed, a top official in the Government's synthetic rubber program told The Journal of Commerce today.

Synthetic rubber cannot be made without soap. It is used as an emulsifier to control the polymerization of styrene and butadiene, chief constituents of synthetic rubber.

More than 6,000,000 pounds of soap are required each month by the synthetic rubber plants now in operation. This is about 6 per cent of all soap consumed in the United States.

Each day's delay in the settlement of the meat problem will lower the output of synthetic rubber in November due to the time required for processing and shipment of the animal by-products through the various stages before they arrive as soap at the synthetic rubber plants, he added.

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GRAIN CURB REMOVAL PROSPECTS STILL UNCERTAIN - Despite many persistent reports that liquor grain curbs will be eliminated on Nov. 1 or Dec. 1 a check with Washington sources and New York industry quarters reveals the following:

1. Some Agriculture Department officials stress the fact that the press release in August setting September allocations for the beverage distilling industry indicated that allotments for September, October and November would remain the same. This would indicate that any easing in grain curbs would come during the month of November and be made effective for December at the earliest.

2. Although a record corn crop harvest looms in the offing, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson has indicated in past weeks that while restrictions on grain use for beverage alcohol production may be eased, there is a strong probability that some form of control will be retained into the first half of 1947.

3. That controls will be eased rather than completely removed in the near future is indicated by reports that the Agriculture Department is contemplating the adoption of a new allocation method for allotting grain on a month-to-month basis to individual beverage distilling companies.

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SUGAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE URGED - James H. Marshall, director of the sugar branch of the production and marketing administration, USDA, in a letter to various segments of the industry, proposes formation of a Sugar Industry Advisory Committee.

Marshall would have two members from each component of the industry on the committee—two representatives of the sugar beet growers, sugar beet processors, Louisiana-Florida cane industry, cane refiners, United States-Cuban group, Hawaiian industry and Puerto Rico. In addition, one member would represent the National Sugar Brokers' Association, the New York Coffee & Sugar Exchange and the Philippine industry.

Great benefits to the industry and the Government would accrue from suggestions and recommendations of such a group during the period of decontrol the Marshall statement points out.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from - - - today's N.Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 2225-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 11 (Cont.) -

CORN PACES RISE IN GRAIN FUTURES - Reports of unfavorable rains in parts of the corn belt spurred buying of corn futures which erased early declines and brought about advances....

Other grains also maintained a firm undertone with the box car situation again a dominant factor but the trading volume was light;

Some of the early selling in corn was prompted by talk of a possible increase in the Government production estimate, scheduled for release after the market closed, but the decline was of short duration as chash corn continued strong and discouraged selling.

Clear weather is required to facilitate corn harvesting and fears were voiced that yesterday's rains might cause some lowering of quality. Further moisture in the form of showers was predicted for some areas.

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ADVANCE IN FLOUR CEILINGS AWAITED - There was an almost complete absence of activity in the domestic flour market yesterday as mills in all sections of the country withheld offerings in anticipation of early announcement of new ceiling prices.

Indications were that the new price levels will be about 15c per 100-pound sack above those now in effect and while this would provide only partial relief it was expected that some increase in offerings would materialize. However, many mills had already sold their domestic quotas up to and beyond the end of the year and these were expected to sell sparingly and then only to regular customers in urgent need.

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COTTON PRICES RISE WITH STOCK MARKET - Cotton prices advanced sharply as the securities markets steadied, despite heavy heging on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The final range was unchanged to up 20 points.

Major factors in the day's trading were the renewal of price fixing to meet the increased hedging, the recovery of strength in stocks, and the unfavorable weather in the belt. It was said that the heavy rains in the Carolinas had lowered the quality of the staple and that some early frosts in northern sections of the belt had reduced the yield in some areas. However, weather charts indicated favorable temperatures throughout the belt yesterday ranging from 50 degrees in the Texas Panhandle to a high of 73 at Galveston. Showers were listed only in southeastern Texas, western Louisiana and the coastal plain of North Carolina.

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BUTTER PRICES CONTINUE HIGHER - Butter market firmness still is the feature of the position, with prices again moving higher. Supplies hold very short and demand most active in the interior and at terminal markets. There is, however, some indication that consumer inquiry is being tempered somewhat with retail price ranges from 93c to \$1 in most stores.

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From Ohio Farmer, Oct. 5 -

DON'T BLAME FARMERS-Editorial-Many city consumers are complaining that the meat famine is caused by refusal of farmers to send their livestock to market. Some even accuse the livestock producers and feeders of going on a sellers' strike. The "on again, off again" supply of meat in the butchers' cases naturally leads the housewife who is trying to buy meat for the table to suspect that something is wrong.

She is right. There is and has been something wrong. But she should not blame the farmer. There is only one place for the hogs, cattle and lambs produced on the farms to go. That place is to market which eventually means on the consumer's table. The farmer tries to sell that livestock when it is most nearly ready to go and when in his opinion the price is right. If his hogs reach desirable weight or his cattle and lambs have about the right finish at the same time that the price is good the farmer has exercised good judgment in his production plans and feeding timing, or he is just lucky. If the price isn't right he is obliged to send his stuff to market before long anyway. He can't put it in storage and wait months for the price to rise again. He may delay a few weeks but little, if anything, is wasted by that for his animals continue to gain weight and put on finish.

So don't blame the farmer. He has a big corn and forage crop this year most of which he must market through livestock. He is not on a strike. Give him a reasonable feeding ratio or margin and a fair break in the market and he will furnish the meat.

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From Iowa Democrat And Leader, Oct. 7 -

ARGENTINA MEAT-Editorial-"Now that meat has all but disappeared from our dining-tables, why not let beef come in temporarily from Argentine?" is a question being asked by more and more people who don't live in cattle-raising territory. Mayor O'Dwyer of New York City has demanded the removal of bans on importation of "meat from South America as soon as possible."

In 1927 the United States forbade the importation of fresh (chilled and frozen) meat from those parts of Argentine in which the hoof-and-mouth disease was present. A similar ban was put in effect for other nations. In 1930 it was formally incorporated in the Hawley-Smoot tariff act of that year, broadened so as to apply to the whole country in which the disease existed. A 1935 treaty with Argentina putting the ban back on a regional basis remains bottled up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The virus which causes the disease exists in the marrow of infected livestock, and spreads thru the careless disposal of meat scraps and bones. It is perhaps the most contagious of all animal diseases, and despite precautions has broken out in the United States several times in the last three decades.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 8 -

JOBLESS ROLLS SWELLED BY OPA FAMINE IN MEAT-Virtually every retail meat dealer in the Chicago area is closing his shop part of the week, if not remaining closed, throwing thousands entirely or partly out of work as the meat famine begins its fifth week. George Dressler, executive secretary of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, said yesterday.

From San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 2 -

CARNIVAL-Editorial-The meat situation, or meatless situation, is generating a field day of "expert" opinionating remarkable in general for fragmentary analysis and remarkable in particular for two statements verging upon fantasy.

Agriculture Secretary Anderson told New Mexico cattle growers Monday that the American public might lose its taste for meat if meat continued short (at the same time that Chicago packers were explaining that the cause of the shortage is the largest public appetite for meat in history), and yesterday Chairman Thompson of the Price Control Board proposed two meatless days per week.

Under admittedly stiff competition these two statements stand alone -- Mr. Anderson's herbivorous prophecy and Mr. Thompson's whimsy of two meatless days as distinguished from five other days without meat. As for the expert carnival at large, consumers will probably remember that the word "carnival" comes from the Italian "carne vale," meaning "O Meat, farewell!"

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From Atlanta Constitution, Oct. 7 -

MONEY IN TURPENTINE PRODUCTION-Editorial-One has known, surely, that naval stores have annually produced a larger and larger share of Georgia's total income. For the past 17 years, this State has led the nation. And annually the over-all return has increased, reaching nearly \$24,000,000 in 1945. It comes as something of a surprise, however, to learn that Georgia timber owners received an average of more than 65 cents a tree last year. That means that the return, per acre, is considerably higher than on what have heretofore been considered money crops. Moreover, the trees continue to grow while being worked for turpentine and lose very little of their ultimate value as lumber in the process. Georgia already produces a third of the world's supply of naval stores. But the demand and the price continue high, and there is no reason why even more Georgia landowners should not take advantage of the opportunity thus presented.

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From Kansas City Times, Oct. 4 -

STATEMENTS ON MEAT-Editorial-At his press conference on Thursday of last week the President stated that the worst of the meat shortage soon would be over and the situation would be improved within a few weeks. Yesterday at his press conference Mr. Truman agreed with his director of reconversion, John R. Steelman, that the situation may grow worse instead of better this winter. And the President now says there is no conflict between the two views.

Well, we fear that a meat-hungry public won't exactly get the point. This unfortunately recalls other attempts of the President to reconcile the irreconcilable.

In this instance the President's meaning was clear in his first statement on meat. He reinforced his declaration that the situation shortly would improve by saying that he knew what he was talking about. Now he falls back upon a minor point in his first statement denying there was any famine in meat. And because Director Steelman does not say there is a famine in meat, the President says there is no conflict. He ought to advise his top officials to hold off at least more than a week before coming out with statements which explode what he has said.

OCT 17 1946

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 14 -

TRUMAN MEAT PLAN KEPT TIGHT SECRET ON EVE OF ADDRESS-Washington-
On the eve of Presidential action on the meat crisis Administration officials gave no inkling of what the specific plan is.

The indications were that President Truman would deal with the problem within the perspective of the wage price stabilization program. He will speak over all radio networks for fifteen minutes at 10 o'clock tonight.

The Republican Congressional Food Study Committee predicted today even less meat in 1947 if price controls are continued and declared that meat supplies would be imperilled for years to come. The committee has just returned from the meat-raising belt, where it questioned more than 100 livestock and meat experts.

It reported that farmers were thoroughly disgusted with what they deemed to be a lopsided control system, shifty regulations and blundering Government action.

"Farmers have lost faith completely in their Government," it asserted.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said tonight that his department would announce Tuesday its decision on the petition of the OPA Beef Industry Advisory Committee for decontrol of beef.

The decision on the petition obviously would have to conform to the plan the President is to announce. Data assembled in the Department of Agriculture in drafting a reply to the petition was also furnished to the White House, fifteen year prewar period which covered highs and lows of production.

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WORLD FOOD PLANS CALLED A U.S. PERIL-Washington- Warning that "our whole American system" was in danger, the National Association of Commodity Exchanges and Allied Trades declared tonight that officials sought to subject the country's food distribution to "a world-wide totalitarian system."

The criticism was issued on the eve of a meeting of the International Emergency Food Council here tomorrow.

The council is among the international groups which the Exchange Association listed as "involved in the plan" for "regimentation of our agriculture on a worldwide scale."

In announcing the International Emergency Food Council meeting, D. A. Fitzgerald, its secretary general, said early forecasts of good crops throughout the world had been hampered by recent reports of the bad harvest weather in Northern Europe.

"The Council is not concerned one way or the other with commodity exchanges," Mr. Fitzgerald said when informed of the criticism of the Association of Commodity Exchanges.

Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times. - - - -

Farm Digest 2235-46

From The New York Times, Oct. 14. -

ARGENTINA READY WITH TINNED MEAT-Large amounts of Argentine canned meat, which is not subject to the quarantine against the importation of unprocessed meat, are available for early shipment to the United States, Oscar Ivanissevich, the Argentine Ambassador to this country, said yesterday.

Some of the canned meat, which includes corn beef, roast beef, brisket beef, corned pork and cooked ham, is ready for immediate shipment and more could be processed "within a very short time" if orders were placed by United States buyers, the Ambassador said.

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THE RIGHT REMEDY: DECONTROL-Editorial-When President Truman goes on the air tonight we may expect to learn something as to the Administration's stabilization program in general and its plans to solve the meat shortage in particular. So far the indications are that Mr. Truman is not yet ready to go the whole way in extricating the country from the morass in which unwise and unworkable price controls have placed it. We hope these indications are misleading. For the action that ought to be taken is clear. All meat and livestock controls ought to be removed immediately.

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GRAIN PRICES RISE DESPITE BIG CROPS-Chicago-Despite official confirmation of record crops of wheat and corn this year and the second largest oats harvest in history, grain prices were on the upgrade last week. This was the result of a shortage of box cars that prevented movement of the big crops into consumptive channels and created an artificial scarcity at points of accumulation.

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EXPECT PRICE DROP IN CANNED FOODS-Chicago-Readjustment of canned goods prices downward by next spring has been predicted by some members of the industry, a trade authority revealed today. For the present, however, current prices are holding firm. While the extent of the decline at retail and wholesale levels were not estimated, an indication of the amount was disclosed by a forecast that growers may receive 15 percent to 20 percent less for their products next year.

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HALT IN PRICE RISE IN 1947, EVEN A DECLINE FORECAST- Washington-The likelihood of a halt in the steep climb in prices of the last three months, the establishment of a plateau in the cost of living and even a decline in price levels in the first half of 1947 is suggested by high officials of Office of Price Administration.

Their views expressed in interviews in the last few days, were given without regard to speculation in some quarters that meat, an important segment in the family budget, would be removed from controls. The views were qualified by these two provisos: That no developments occur in the production picture to force up manufacturing costs and necessitate another wave of price increases.

That the stabilization program continue to receive the support of the country.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 14 -

NATIONAL BISCUIT TO CLOSE TWO EASTERN FACTORIES - National Biscuit Co. plants in New York and Philadelphia, having exhausted their supply of shortening, will close today for one week, Edward F. Moore, Jr., assistant to the president, announced at the week-end.

Other plants throughout the country, Moore said, will curtail operations to about 50 percent of capacity on the average, with some operating only a day or so this week and others operating the full week.

Moore said the company has been unable to buy any lard since OPA ceilings were reimposed on live stock.

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DAIRY MARKETS CONTINUE FIRM - Butter markets continue extremely firm with prices tending still further upward on a concentration of demand for restricted supplies. Competition to secure goods from creameries and at terminal points is extremely pronounced, and quality discrimination has lessened sharply on the open market here.

Cheese markets extremely firm with interior points leading the way in a recent and sharp price upturn. There has been a heavy concentration of demand on cheese because of the long-continued meat shortage.

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FLOUR PRICE DELAY CURTAILS OFFERINGS - The flour trade marked time on Friday with mills almost entirely withdrawn from the domestic market pending relief from the price squeeze caused by considerable advances in cash wheat values since present flour price ceilings became effective.

During the last few days of the week announcement was expected momentarily of new ceiling prices which, it was indicated, would add 15¢ to 20¢ per 100 pound sack to prices for all flours. While such an advance would provide some measure of relief, it was claimed by many mill representatives that it would still fail to provide an adequate margin and criticism was widespread of existing conditions which force the milling industry to make constant applications for price adjustments.

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STRENGTH IN CASH SPURS CORN RISE - Persistent strength in the cash markets combined with renewed discussion of possible removal of live stock ceilings to attract active commission house buying of corn futures which, supplemented by short covering, resulted in further advances.

Cash corn values rose 1¢ to 4¢ a bushel as buyers far outnumbered limited offerings from the country and No. 2 yellow was forced up to \$2.06 while new crop No. 5 yellow reached \$2.05 on the spot. The light offerings were attributed in part to the shortage of boxcars, but many traders viewed farmers' reluctance to sell at this time to a desire to await live stock price developments. Tax considerations were also believed a factor as many farmers had already marketed large crops at high prices this year and appeared to be waiting until after the turn of the year. In the event that livestock ceilings should be removed it was believed that higher prices would stimulate greater feeding operations. Indicative of the tight situation prevailing in corn it was pointed out that receipts at terminal markets during the week had amounted to only 2,352,000 bushels which contrasted with 4,250,000 bushels during the corresponding period last year despite the fact that the price level is much higher and the crop earlier than a year ago.

From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 14 -

ALMOND CROP SWELLS TO NEW RECORD - San Francisco - A record flood of almonds is being shaken from California's nut orchards this autumn. Growers estimate production of these tasty nuts will reach 80 million pounds this year, enough to satisfy the demands of candy makers, bakers and the "salters" who roast and sell them by the thousands of pounds. This year's output will about equal consumption before the war, when millions of pounds of foreign almonds were imported. It's up 70% from the 1945 output. Several factors, such as good growing conditions, have combined to make this a bumper crop. One major reason is that thousands of new trees came into bearing for the first time this fall.

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MINNEAPOLIS SHOPPERS TO SCRAMBLE FOR BUFFALO MEAT - Minneapolis - Housewives readied themselves for a buying rush today, when, at noon sharp, without regard for OPA ceilings, 10,000 pounds of meat goes on sale here. It's buffalo meat. The choice, grain-fed bison, cut from 33 head of buffalo from the private herd of Charles A. Ward, president of Brown & Bigelow Co., St. Paul, will be sold at two stores.

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INDUSTRY FRETS OVER SOAP SUPPLY - Industry is worried about the soap shortage. "No soap, no woolens," says a spokesman for Botany Mills. Soap figures in both the beginning and concluding stages of woolen manufacture. It is used first to wash the grease from the sheared wool. After the woolen cloth is printed and dyed, a final washing in soap adds to the fluffiness that is a main selling point with the public.

Soap, in one form or another, is important in the manufacture of rubber and steel wire. A by-product--glycerine--is used in the making of such diverse products as dynamite and paints. Glycerine also gives cigarettes the moistness which smokers like.

A Wall Street Journal survey shows that so far industry has not had to actually cut down on manufacturing because of the soap shortage. But the day may not be far distant unless some way is found to end the meat famine and start a normal flow of tallow to soap makers again.

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From the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 14 -

DOUGHTON BELIEVES MEAT SHOULD BE DECONTROLLED - Washington - Representative Robert L. Doughton (D., N. C.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, in a statement issued through his office here today, said he believed meat should be decontrolled at the earliest practicable moment.

Doughton's office said he had held telephone conversations with the Secretary of Agriculture at the White House several times during the past ten days, urging the Secretary and President Truman "to take sound and immediate action to relieve the meat situation.

The statement said Doughton "approved the President's decision to restore meat in large proportion in the American diet" but said "while any temporary action to better supply housewives' tables" would be approved by him, he believed the only proper solution was "decontrol of this product together with any others in reasonable supply at the earliest practicable moment."

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Farm Digest 2235-46-4

From Des Moines Register, Oct. 9 -

SAY FARMERS ROBBING LAND-Ames, Ia.--Iowa farmers are continuing to drain far too much fertility from their soil, according to Iowa State college farm specialists.

Encouraged to high grain production during the war, these farmers now desire to maintain heavy cropping practices and take advantage of high grain prices.

But the time has come to begin paying back the soil, the college specialists say. Farmers who interrupted rotations designed to maintain soil fertility must restore these rotations. In a majority of cases other fertilizers also must be added.

A recent study in Pocahontas county revealed that farmers have not yet begun essential restoration of soil fertility. Pocahontas was selected as representatives of the north central Iowa cash grain area.

The survey showed 68 per cent of the 1946 corn land has been in corn, oats or soybeans for five years or more. Ten per cent of the land was first-year corn following hay or pasture.

Reasons for this sort of farming showed that nearly half were cropping their land more severely than they normally would because of high grain prices.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 10 -

MORE TRUTH THAN POULTRY-Editorial-A disturbing report has recently appeared in the press--a dark picture of warehouses crammed with ever-growing piles of poultry, as prices, subject no doubt to some sinister influence, go up instead of down.

The "expose" is based upon the Sept. 1 issue of the Department of Agriculture's cold storage report, which reveals that poultry in cold storage increased from 114,000,000 lbs. on Sept. 1, 1945, to 202,000,000 lbs. a year later. Turkey in storage leaped from 17,960,000 lbs. to 54,603,000 lbs. during the same period.

One article suggests that "if production is the answer to shortage, as contended by major packers, then turkeys at least should be a drug on the market."

The implication is apparently, that either the major packers are feeble at economics or that there is some reprehensible hocus-pocus behind the scenes.

Neither view is justified by the facts, which our "liberal" friends could ascertain if they wished to do so.

The price increase referred to--11 to 12 cents a pound--has occurred since Sept. 1. But the storage figures referred to the period prior to Sept. 1. Consequently an attempt to correlate pre-Sept. 1 price quotations, while picturesquely illogical, is not much of a threat to economic doctrine. Nor does it prove anything--except a certain measure of reportorial carelessness.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 10 -

FARMERS' SHARE LARGEST IN MILK, DAIRIES REPORT-The largest part of the dollar the housewife spends for milk goes to pay the farmer for his raw product, dairy officials said yesterday. The next biggest portion of the dollar goes to pay for the labor of office help and milk wagon drivers.

A breakdown of the housewife's dollar by one Chicago dairy discloses that 66.69 cents goes to pay the farmer. Labor takes 18.55 cents. Other costs include bottles and caps 3.84 cents; taxes, 1.02 cents; property expense, 1.86 cents; materials and supplies, 1.34 cents; hauling raw product, 1.76 cents; advertising, .96 cents, and officers' salaries, .20 cents. The profit for the dairy out of the dollar is .92 cents, the official said.

He based the breakdown on the fact that the dairy gets an average of only 18.7 cents for each quart of milk it sells, instead of the 22½ cents now asked for a home delivered quart of milk.

Another city dairy said that based on the 22½ cents a quart price, out of each dollar the housewife spends for milk 51.50 cents goes to pay the farmer. Labor takes 24.10 cents; vehicles, 3.56 cents; miscellaneous costs, 4.12 cents; testing, pasteurizing, and bottling, 11.46 cents; general administrative costs and profit, 1.49 cents; transportation, 1.86 cents, and cost of handling at receiving stations, 1.91 cents.

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From New York Butchers' Advocate, Oct. 2 -

A TEABONE STEAK-Editorial-If Washington wants to find out where the inflation spiral starts, all they have to do is to take a trip through the Midwest and talk to farmers, feeders, business men and bankers. They are so bullish on everything on the farm that it is questionable whether or not they should not kill off more than a normal percentage of bulls this year. It is felt that much of our difficulties on the inflation spiral are due to the get-rich-quick profits that have been obtained in the producing area the past few years.

The writer was told that if he wanted to find a 4-H Teabone Steak it could be obtained at a roadhouse about 20 miles out of the city. This was a place that did not serve liquor, but could handle 200 guests. The steaks served was aged for over a month out of a carcass that weighed 1,200 pounds. This small roadhouse had over \$5,000,000 worth of loins and ribs of good and choice beef in his cooler and freezer. This is where our teabone steaks are going.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 9 -

A LITTLE MORE MEAT EXPECTED WITHIN MONTH-An improvement in the movement of meat animals to slaughterers can be expected within the next 30 days, authorities in the industry said yesterday. But no sizable increase should be expected for about two months unless the government decontrols livestock, it was added.

Although the situation will gradually improve through December and January, it was forecast that at no time in the next twelve months will there be a stampede of livestock. Therefore, it is expected that consumer demands will remain only partly filled until late in 1947 or early in 1948.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For October 15, 1946)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4094. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 15 -

TRUMAN ENDS ALL PRICE CONTROLS ON MEAT, EFFECTIVE TODAY, AS 'ONLY METHOD LEFT' TO HIM-Washington-President Truman removed tonight all price controls from livestock and meat, effective tomorrow, in resorting to what he described as "the one remedy left" for ending the most critical meat shortage in the country's history.

Mr. Truman handed down his long-awaited decision in a country wide radio address at 10 p.m. He put the blame for the crisis, which made the action necessary, on "the reckless group of selfish men" who for political gain encouraged sellers of meat to gamble on the end of the price control.

He said that he had studied a number of alternatives before taking the decontrol action. These included a "price control holiday"; a price increase for livestock; Government seizure of packing houses and cattle for slaughter, and importation of dressed meat from foreign countries.

These proposals were "carefully weighed and considered," but they had to be rejected, Mr. Truman said.

Accordingly, the President added, he had ordered the Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, and the Price Administrator, Paul Porter, to remove all price controls on livestock, meat, and meat products and foodstuffs derived from livestock.

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FED CATTLE UP 25C IN CHICAGO TRADING-Washington-On the prospect that controls on meat would be relaxed, fed cattle leaped 25 to 30 cents higher on the Chicago market during the day. Slaughter lambs also went up.

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CALLS FARM SURPLUS A WORLD BOARD ISSUE-Green Bay-Solution of problems of local surplus farm production must in the future come at international council tables, Robert H. Shields, administrator of Production and Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture told delegates to the National Catholic Rural Life Conference convention here today.

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U.S. MOVE TO SETTLE TRUCK STRIKE SEEN-State or Federal intervention appeared last night to be the next likely development in the general trucking strike. The statement was underlined by a new refusal of employers to accept the Bohack formula settlement of 31 cents an hour for teamsters. (Turn to page 2 for other items in today's New York Times.)

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From The New York Times, Oct. 15 -

BRAZIL IS ELECTED TO FOOD COUNCIL-Washington-The International Emergency Food Council of twenty five nations met today and elected Brazil to the Central Committee to take the place earlier reserved for Argentina, which like Russia, failed to join.

However, Dr. D. A. FitzGerald secretary general for the council, which succeeded the Combined Food Board in allocating commodities in short supply, told reporters at a press conference following the meeting that even though Argentina was not a member nearly 100 percent of its export beef was allocated in the world pool. This is due to the fact that "more than 99 percent of the claimant countries are members," he added. He said Argentina's reason for not joining was that it was "unable to undertake agreements to export more foodstuffs."

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UNRRA ENDS BUYING ARGENTINE GRAIN-Buenos Aires-Having been forced to pay in Argentina forty cents a bushel above the United States and Canadian price for wheat on its last 50,000 ton purchase, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is ceasing operations here this month.

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BRITISH BUY COTTON FROM RUSSIA-Moscow-It is learned that negotiations between British and Russian officials have led to substantial purchase of Russian grown cotton by the British Government at prices below those quoted on the New York market. A representative of the Board of Trade who visited the Soviet Union to conduct the negotiations received facilities for visiting most Black Sea ports whence cotton is shipped. He saw samples of the cotton that Russian agronomists have grown self-colored. Favorable reports have been received on this year's cotton crop.

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RUSSIA'S FOOD PROBLEMS-Editorial-We may think we have a food crisis in this country with our record crops and bare tables, but evidence continues to pile up that Russia is in the midst of a much worse one. Apparently the collective farm system, on which Russia depends to develop her industrial program, has broken down badly. The recent nationwide purge of Soviet directors in the agricultural regions has not eased the situation. Now a new Council of Ministers on the highest level has been organized to bring order out of what seems to be increasing chaos.

Whether the Government can also make the farms produce again, and how soon, are open questions. But it is clear that the bulk of the Russian people are not getting enough to eat.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 15 -

MEAT WILL RETURN TO YOUR TABLE IN 10 DAYS TO 2 WEEKS - Chicago - A flow of meat will begin to hit your dinner table in 10 days to two weeks.

That was the reaction last night of Chicago's meat packers to President Truman's speech announcing freedom of meat and livestock from price controls. It will take that long, they declared, to move cattle and pigs from farm to market and on through the slaughtering pens to the butcher's shelves.

But President Truman, in freeing livestock and meat from price controls, took the only step that would put meat back in America's daily diet, the packers said.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON SAYS THERE WILL BE NO PRICE CEILINGS ON MEAT TODAY - Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, after the President's speech last night, said to all extent and purposes there would be no price ceilings on meat today.

The formal order for dropping livestock price controls, as the President directed, is expected to be issued early this morning. The order probably will be signed jointly by Secretary Anderson and OPA Administrator Paul Porter.

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ODT BANS GREAT LAKES GRAIN SHIPMENTS FROM CANADA IN U. S. VESSELS - Washington - The Office of Defense Transportation banned Great Lakes Grain shipments from Canada in American vessels.

This action was taken because of the shortage of vessels to move cargoes of grain, coal and ore between Great Lakes ports. Shipments of grain in American vessels, from Fort Williams, Ontario to Duluth, Minn., or Superior, Wis., are not subject to the ODT order.

Because of the boxcar shortage, a permit is needed to move grain into the North Atlantic port area. The order affects intrastate commerce as well as overseas shipments.

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RUSSIA'S COTTON CROP REPORTED 40% GREATER THAN LAST YEAR - Moscow - Pravda reported that Russia's cotton crop will be 40% greater this year than last. The number of bales was not estimated. Alexander Ivanchenko, a Russian cotton crop executive, forecast in March that the Russian crop in 1947 would reach its 1938 level, when the Soviet Union was outproduced only by the United States and India.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 15 -

WIS. CORN PACKING DRAWING TO CLOSE - Milwaukee, Wis. - With corn pack operations being completed by a majority of plants in Wisconsin, canning operations for the year are generally being brought to a rapid conclusion, with reports indicating a most satisfactory output despite earlier predictions of sizable declines in peas, corn, and other vegetables canned in Wisconsin.

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(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

Farm Digest 2245-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 15 -

'46 CITRUS JUICE PRICE ANNOUNCED - Some canners were reported to have named opening prices on blended sweetened citrus juices on the basis of \$1.35 for 2s and \$3.25 for 46 oz. f.o.b. cannery.

Last year opening prices were around \$1.49 for 2s and \$3.55 for 46 oz. Last prices quoted in this market for blended varieties covering 1945-46 packs were \$1.60 for unsweetened 2s and \$3.50 for 46 oz. f.o.b. factory.

In most quarters the spot market was reported as decidedly easy and there continued to be reports of surplus stocks, with the situation in grapefruit juice much the same. However, orange juice was reported in better demand, although it was felt that a fair size surplus still existed.

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MILL BUYING AIDS WHEAT ADVANCE - Wheat futures displayed independent strength at Chicago during the morning trading, but other grains were reactionary, with corn reflecting hedge selling following substantial receipts over the weekend.

Initial advances in wheat carried the January delivery to \$2.09 a bushel, a new high on the crop, as mill buying brought in short covering. Bullish sentiment in the bread grain again resulted from light country offerings, the scarcity of box cars and expectations of an increase in the flour ceilings. However, increased realizing sales were encountered on the advance and partial setbacks occurred with the January back to \$2.08 at noon.

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COTTON FEATURELESS IN UNEVEN SESSION - Prices readjusted in a featureless session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The relative position of the normally inactive January, 1947, delivery was traded to narrow the differential with December. Other current crop months were weak and the 1947-48 positions firm. The closing range was off 10 to up 18 points.

The market was thin and inactive throughout the session. Trading appeared to be waiting for the President's decision on meat control as an indication of possible action in other fields. No other external factors, except minor influences caused by movements in securities, were observed.

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From the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 15 -

MEAT ACTION APPROVED BY LEGISLATORS - Washington - Lifting of meat controls won a general chorus of approval tonight, but the nature of congressional comment split largely along party lines.

Republicans called President Truman's action a "confession of failure" and "locking the barn after the horse has been taken to the butcher shop."

Democrats stressed the President's declaration that responsibility for the situation lies with those in Congress "in the service of selfish interests."

Senator Taft (R., Ohio) said the President was "just asking what I've been urging all along."

"They should have been removed months ago," he said at a Republican rally in Columbus, Ohio.

Carroll Reece, Republican national chairman: "It's too late. The damage has already been done. Truman is locking the barn door after the horse has been taken to the butcher shop."

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From New York Times, October 13,-

REPORT FROM THE NATION, New England,--High Prices for Fish Add to Woes of Meatless Area-Boston-The severe meat shortage has focused renewed attention on New England's commercial fishing industry, which is enjoying a banner year.

Housewives, hospitals, schools, restaurants and hotels naturally turned to fish when meat disappeared, but the prices on the abundant natural resource skyrocketed to provide more depressing news for New England.

Low-income families have been suffering most from the situation and a common question among families, even those able to afford the higher prices, is "What are you feeding the children?" Poultry and egg prices likewise have climbed to add to the difficulty.

The meat shortage and the resulting demand for fish brought about the recent sharp upward trend in fish prices, which are not under controls. There has been, however, a tendency toward higher fish prices in recent years as a result of the instability within the industry.

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REPORT FROM THE NATION, The Deep South-Failures Are Few Despite Very Poor Cotton Crop-Now Orleans-The South is harvesting its smallest crop of cotton in twenty-five years, with few cries of despair from the planters and farmers. Bankruptcy faces some growers, but the proportion is small compared with the large segment of the people of the Cotton Belt who feared financial ruin at the end of various bad growing seasons in years past.

A new factor in the South's economy is crop insurance. Agents of the Farm Credit Administration say that many planters will be saved from foreclosure because they carried crop insurance this year.

Another factor is farm mechanization. Price McElmore, Alabama farmer, recently produced what he described as the first bale of cotton ever cultivated exclusively by mechanical methods for commercial purposes. Mr. McElmore expects to harvest eighty more bales from his eighty-three-acre mechanized farm, at a cost of 8 cents per pound. Thousands of other Southern farms and plantations have been partially mechanized since 1921.

A third factor in the Cotton Belt is diversification. Growers who ten years ago produced nothing but cotton are using their lands for oats and cover crops, and many cotton farmers are using parts of their places for the raising of cattle.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 11 -

AND NOW LUMBER-Editorial-The American Forestry association the other day heard Secretary of Agriculture Anderson recommend government control of privately owned forests. They are said to contain 57 per cent of the nation's commercial timber reserves.

The suggestion is a splendid one, provided the nation wishes before long to be without forests and without lumber. Mr. Anderson's proposal will appeal only to those naive souls who fancy that the best way to solve any economic problem is to give the bureaucrats a chance to go to work on it. How this kind of thing works out in practice can be learned by visiting a butcher shop. Mr. Anderson's success in maintaining a supply of meat is hardly a recommendation for extending his powers to other matters about which he knows even less, if that is possible.

From Watertown Daily Times, Oct. 11 -

MILK AS A PUBLIC UTILITY-Editorial-Canada has been greatly stirred lately by the proposal which originated in New Brunswick to make milk a public utility. Interest was aroused in Canada by the success of a similar experiment tried out in New Zealand. In Wellington, capital of New Zealand, all milk is distributed by the municipality. The farmers are receiving a higher price than ever before and the consumers are paying nine cents a quart for milk while school children get all they can drink free. The reason is, of course, that the middleman and the middleman's profit, have been eliminated.

In New Brunswick the milk producers are organized into the Association of Milk Producers and Suppliers. This organization has thrown its influence behind a movement to have milk processed and distributed by a publicly-owned corporation in the management of which both producers and consumers would be represented. A study has been made of the St. John's milk market and the Association claims that the distribution of milk as a public utility would cut the cost three cents a quart.

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From Boston Herald, Oct. 12 -

ONE MEAT BALL-Editorial-The OPA's industry advisory committee for meat, representing most of the packers, has set in motion the ponderous machinery for decontrol. At first glance it looked like a way for the Administration to get loose from the bull it now has by the horns. It would be simple for Secretary Anderson to deny quickly the committee's petition, so that an appeal could be rushed to the Decontrol Board. Then the board, which is a semi-judicial body and hence independent of the administration, could reverse its previous decision, on the ground perhaps that experience had shown control not to be in the public interest, one of the three requirements set down by the law.

This would save face for the President and Secretary Anderson. But this is no way out. An obscure provision of the OPA extension law provides that no petition may be filed with the Decontrol Board on any commodity on which the board has rendered a ruling within the last three months. The meat recontrol decision was rendered on August 20. Three months is long past that climatic day, the fifth of November. It won't do!

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From The Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 11 -

TOO LITTLE, TOO HIGH-MENU IN TENNESSEE-Tennesseans are now paying 93 cents to \$1.19 for a pound for butter and scraping the bottom of the barrel for meat supplies. From one end of the state to the other the picture is the same and there is little promise of relief.

The highest butter prices are reported in Johnson City where a pound is selling for as high as \$1.19.

Butter went to 96 cents a pound in Nashville yesterday and dairymen predicted that the price would continue to rise one-half to two cents a day until the "consumer balks" or the Decontrol Board places dairy products back under OPA ceilings.

Dairymen and poultrymen complained that trucks are flooding in from the East and Midwest to deplete the Middle Tennessee market and force prices up.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(Oct. 16, 1946)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 16 -

RETAILERS OFFER \$1 A POUND MEAT; SUPPLY UNCERTAIN-Meat reappeared yesterday in many retailers' showcases. The asking prices ranged from former ceilings to a flat "dollar-a-pound for anything you see". Some consumers just looked, but others lined up to wait their turn.

The overnight change from near famine to comparative plenty--evident in most areas of the city, was explained thus by Joseph Eschelbacher, secretary of the New York State Association of Retail Meat Dealers:

"Some butchers had meat that they planned to stretch out over a week or so. Others went out and bought some in the morning. They wouldn't buy black, but black is white now."

President Truman's radio address, in which he announced abandonment of meat controls, meant to butchers that replenishments will be available in a few days, Mr. Eschelbacher said.

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ONLY 15% OF FOODS NOW UNDER CONTROL-Washington-Only 15 percent of the family food budget remained under controls after all regulations on livestock meat and food and feed products made from them were ended today.

The decontrol of meat freed 25 percent of the food budget, the Office of Price Administration estimated. Dairy products make up 20 percent, fruits and vegetables 20 percent, and fresh fish, poultry, eggs and most grains constitute about another 20 percent. All of these have been decontrolled.

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'POLITICS' LAID TO TRUMAN BY REECE IN MEAT ACTION-Washington-President Truman has furnished another powerful argument for the election of a Republican Congress Nov. 5, Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, asserted tonight.

In a radio reply to the President's networks' speech of last night, announcing the lifting of price controls on meat, Mr. Reece said Mr. Truman's denunciation of "a few men to Congress" had provided this argument.

The Republican-national chairman ascribed a political motive to the abandoning of price controls. The veto of the original OPA bill in June made the President responsible for lapse of controls, he said. Then, Mr. Reece continued, a Government agency restored controls after the second bill was enacted. Now the executive branch of the Government removes controls once more, he went on.

"This is a familiar pattern, before election, whether it's meat or anything else in the field of Government control," said the National Chairman.

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(Turn to page 2 for other items
in today's N.Y. Times.)

Farm Digest 2255-46

From The New York Times, Oct. 16 -

A WISE DECISION-Editorial-Common sense and logic have prevailed in Washington. In announcing the elimination of meat controls, President Truman has taken only action that promised to restore meat to the normal channels of trade. As he explained, none of the other proposed alternatives would have provided an effective remedy. To agree with this judgment is not, of course, to accept all of the points he advanced in his statement. It is not reassuring, for example, to learn that he had considered seriously the invasion of property rights involved in Government seizure of farmers' cattle and rejected this solution not on grounds of principle, but because it was "wholly impracticable."

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\$380,000,000 SAVED IN MEAT SUBSIDIES-Washington-The United States Treasury stands to save about \$380,000,000 through President Truman's action in ending subsidies on meats along with price controls.

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RADIO FORUM WEIGHS TRUMAN MEAT ACTION-President Truman's decision on meat price controls was described variously yesterday as "the only course possible" and "too little and too late," by a panel of four speakers on The New York Times radio forum: "Government Control--Howlong and How Much."

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65% OF CONTROLS STILL SEEN IN OPA; FARM MACHINES AMONG ITEMS STILL UNDER CEILINGS-Insisting that the end of meat price control did not mean an early collapse of all but the rent control work of the Office of Price Administration, James L. Meader, administrator for this five state region listed yesterday as the economic danger spots over which OPA would strengthen its controls the following: housing (building materials and rents), apparel, heavy consumer durables, automobiles and farm machinery.

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ACTS TO FACILITATE WORLD FOOD FLOW-Washington-A six nation subcommittee to formulate a policy on barter agreements which might interfere with international allocation of scarce food items was appointed today by the International Emergency Food Council.

On the committee which is expected to report to the council in about ten days, are the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Norway, India and Czechoslovakia.

D. A. FitzGerald, secretary general of the IEGC told a news conference that the international allocating agency was not interested in agreements which provided for the flow of goods in normal trade channels or which could be adjusted to the IEFC system.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 16 -

SOARING LIVESTOCK PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO LEVEL OFF - Cheaper chickens and eggs and the prospect of substantially more meat for the dinner table within 10 days to two weeks followed meat decontrol yesterday. Sideline prospects were for more soap and elimination of the no-leather blight which has threatened the nation's shoe factories....

The immediate effect of "taking off the lid" was to send hog and cattle prices through the roof....At Chicago hogs vaulted \$11 a hundredweight to hit a record peak of \$27.50; cattle soared \$8.50 a hundredweight to reach the \$28.75 level. In the Omaha livestock market, cattle went to \$30 a hundredweight yesterday, compared with \$22 Monday. Pigs sold at \$27.50, compared with \$15.90 the day before and lambs rose from Monday's \$19.75 to \$22.

As hog-cattle prices went up, steak and chop substituting chickens and eggs started skidding on the price ladder. Dressed poultry prices were off 2 to 6 cents a pound in New York, and Chicago egg futures closed a cent lower.

Yesterday's soaring livestock prices should not be taken as indicative of a continued high level ahead, meat men say. They emphasize that markets were nearly barren of animals yesterday because owners did not have time to get hogs and cattle to market after the President's announcement late Monday night.

Large packers, significantly, were not buying livestock in Chicago at yesterday's booming prices. The outlook is for substantially lower prices as the "pipelines," from stockyards to home refrigerators, get filled with meat.

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COTTON USE RISES - Editorial - World consumption of cotton slumped during the war but achieved a noteworthy recovery in the "cotton year" ended July 31 last. According to Department of Commerce statistics, exports from all countries exceeded nine million bales in these twelve months, whereas average exports of five war years were only slightly more than five million bales. Our own planters disposed of 3,678,000 bales abroad, their largest exports since 1939-40, the year in which the outside world was stocking up in anticipation of war. But their sales, despite subsidies, were little more than the long-time peace average.

Two of our three greatest competitors in cotton production, Egypt and India, were badly handicapped by leftover war in the past year. The former's exports at 860,000 bales were less than half their usual pre-war volume. India sent out 820,000 bales or about one-quarter of her average peacetime contribution. Brazil marketed 1,471,000 bales, her second largest export. Peru, as yet a minor factor in the world market, reached a new export record at 440,000 bales.

World cotton exports were wont to hover about 13 million bales in the piping times of peace; they may well be expected to increase considerably during the next few years. Whether our own or foreign planters are to meet the greater demand will be a question of price. Thirty to thirty-five cents a pound for cotton is good when you can get it, but not when you can't.

* * *

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 16 -

IMPORTS OF CATTLE SEEN INADEQUATE - Brownsville, Tex. - The lifting of controls on meat prices and the apparent removal of the four-month ban on Mexican cattle will not mean a heavy immediate importation, border packers said today. At midday there had been no reports of any cattle receipts at the border.

(Turn to page 4 for other items . . . - - -
from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 2265-46-3

SOARING LIVE STOCK, MEATS LIFT PRICE INDEX TO NEW PEAK - Live stock and meat prices sky-rocketed yesterday--at all trade levels--as price control ended and trade and public started to bid for the immediate available limited supply of meat.

Here is the score card: Hogs up \$11 to a new high of \$27.50 per hundred-weight. Cattle up \$8.50 to \$28.75 per cwt. Lard up 11.7¢ to 30¢ per pound. Beef up approximately 69 percent to \$40 per cwt. Pork up approximately 42 percent to \$35 per cwt. Pork chops up from 43¢ to \$1. Hamburger up from 30¢ to 55¢. Bacon up from 43¢ to 70¢.

At the same time, however, there were some important minus scores: Butter eased at the wholesale level 3/4¢ per pound to 87-3/4¢. Poultry was off 5¢ per pound--as the prospect of increased meat supplies was expected to result in a drop in demand. Corn prices were off sharply--as the trade figured that immediate feed demands--due to increased slaughtering of livestock--probably would drop.

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PRE-BUREAU LONGS DEPRESS COTTON PRICES - Pre-bureau longs took profits and hedging operations increased to depress prices in cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Support of the market, based on President Truman's decontrol speech, was insufficient to absorb the liquidation. The final range was off 23 to up 8 points, with strength only in the new October position.

Despite the strong market in securities resulting from prospects of a free economy, cotton prices appeared to follow grains, which were weak. Most quarters however, believed that the price of cotton was being influenced solely by internal market factors. Yesterday, October 15, was considered normally the peak of the hedging season. Although the crop is about two weeks late, the volume of trading in the southern spot markets indicated that hedging would follow the normal pattern.

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DAIRY PRICE OUTLOOK HELD UNCERTAIN - Butter market showed an unsettled trend under the announced freeing of meats from price controls. More goods were offered on the open market at previous prices and in instances fractionally lower, and buying interest was tempered. It will take a little time for the market to adjust itself to the new conditions prevailing. More consumer resistance is reported at retail rates ranging 93¢ to \$1. Production still declining, but some gain over last year is being recorded.

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ALL GRAINS REACT AFTER INITIAL RISE - Despite recent widespread discussion of the possibility of removal of live stock controls few traders had expected such action and the resulting rush to buy grains caused advances amounting to as much as 4¢ at the outset of trading at Chicago yesterday.

Maximum gains were retained for only a very brief period, however as heavy realizing sales quickly appeared and brought about sharp recessions with nearby corn dropping almost 4¢ from the high point of the morning.

Opinion was divided as to effects of live stock decontrol upon corn and this was reflected by erratic price swings. Many in the trade were of the belief that the sharp advances in hogs and cattle would quickly result in much larger marketings thereby tending to curtail feeding demands upon corn and upon this theory much of the selling appeared to be predicated.

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From Kansas City Star, Oct. 13 -

A GRAIN ANOMALY-Wheat above \$2 a bushel, corn around the \$2 mark, oats at 90 cents a bushel--these are prices brought about in peacetime, not by scarcity of grain but by scarcity of transportation in a nation recovering from war.

Never before in the history of America has so much wheat--1,170 million bushels--been grown in a year, and the 1946 corn crop, about to be harvested, will exceed 3,374 million bushels. The oats crop, while not a record breaker, is nearly 1,527 million bushels.

Yet in this plethora of grain, America has the anomaly of a scarcity on the market and abundance on the farm. Men in the trade who are closest to the situation affirm that the shortage of boxcars for transporting the grain to terminal markets and to mills in the case of wheat and corn and oats, is the prime cause of the high prices prevailing today.

This is shown graphically in the case of corn which, after touching \$2.25 on July 5, dropped below \$2 on August 6 and thereafter sagged steadily until a few days ago when it bounced back quickly to the \$2 mark. When users found it difficult to buy in quantity at the terminal markets.

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From Atlanta Constitution, Oct. 12 -

PROFITABLE COTTON AT EIGHT CENTS A POUND-Editorial-An experiment has been underway in Montgomery County, Alabama, which affords encouragement to those of us who have feared Southern cotton would be driven from the market by synthetic fibres.

Price McLemore, realizing that American cotton prices must come down if it is to compete on the world market as well as meet the threat provided by synthetics domestically, has just ginned what probably is the first bale of 100 percent mechanically produced cotton ever grown in the South.

From preparing the land to taking the finished bale home from the gin, only one man was employed. All work was done by machine.

McLemore, who kept accurate account of all costs entering into the operation, says the bale was produced at a cost of eight cents per pound. He figures it took 8.53 man-hours of labor per acre, compared with estimates of 235 man-hours for conventional methods.

Complete mechanization is, of course, out of the question for the average farmer at present.

But it is good to know that it can be done. And more and more farmers will be following, in at least some degree, the example which McLemore has set.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 14 -

INFLATION PUTS BRAZILIAN FOOD ON A SKYROCKET-Rio De Janeiro, Brazil-Brazillians, particularly residents of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, are going hungry. Many have been going hungry for at least a year. Inflation is snatching the food from every one except those who have become rich in black market manipulations directly connected with the food situation.

Crops are rotting in the fields in many areas despite the fact that trucks stand neary-by/ The trucks cannot be used to bring the food to the cities because they have no tires. The tires have fallen prey to smugglers who steal and sell them in Argentina.

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 11 -

NEW USES FOR COTTON REPORTED BY INDUSTRY, New York, (AP)-Three new textile products developed from cotton were announced Thursday by the United States Rubber Co.

Ustex, a chemically-treated cotton yarn possessing 70 per cent more strength than regular yarn is being increasingly used in high-pressure hose and belting, the company said.

Strex, an elastic fabric without rubber, is made by twisting yarn cotton onto the shape of a coil spring, and is used for slippers, sweaters and surgical bandages.

Carosel, resembling linen, is made of 80 per cent cotton and 20 per cent asbestos, and is being used for dish towels because of its high absorbency and polishing characteristics, the company said.

H. Gordon Smith, vice president and general manager of the company's Textile Division, said, "The rubber industry in the future will need great quantities of cotton even if its use in tire cord fabric is entirely discontinued," because of the cheapness of rayon.

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From Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 10 -

PRICES WORRY TO DAIRY MEN-Stevens Point, Wisconsin-The creamery men making Wisconsin's butter don't like the wild soaring prices.

Members of the Wisconsin Creamery association, an organization representing the major butter making plants in the state, look around to see-

Butter retailing about 90c a pound, going up about a cent a pound a day and reaching for the unheard of price of \$1 a pound on legal markets.

American cheddar cheese bid up to 48½c a pound.

The Swiss cheese in Green county bringing 57 to 58c a pound, green at the factory and, when aged, as much as 62c and retailing at 70c a pound in Monroe.

And Dodge county's brick cheese at 52c a pound wholesale.

This all adds up to skyrocketing cream and milk prices. The producer price on fluid milk is hitting around \$4.50 a hundred pounds and butterfat is sailing up week after week to as high as \$1.30 to \$1.35 a pound in parts of the state. Milk at \$5 a hundredweight is in prospect.

"We don't like these prices any better than the consumer, but there is nothing we can do about it until the shortages end," says R. M. Steinhauer, Madison, president of the association. "How high and how long butter will stay at these prices is a guess. We must go through a period of unbalanced prices and the headache of short supplies that will correct itself in time. When? These prices will stimulate production and butter should level down when the flush production season comes."

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 17 -

MARGARINE, SHORTENING PUT ON FOOD DECONTROL LIST-Washington-Oleo-margarine, shortening, mayonnaise and salad dressing were removed from price control today by the Office of Price Administration. They were covered in an order which decontrolled most vegetable fats and oils and products of which these fats and oil are a chief ingredient.

The order, effective tomorrow, was made necessary, it was stated, by the action of President Truman Monday in ending price controls in the meat field, an action which included lard and edible tallow.

"The usual price relationship of lard and vegetable oils," the OPA said, "would be distorted by the expected sharp rise in decontrolled lard prices, which would make it almost impossible to retain control on peanut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil and soybean oil."

The Price Decontrol Board announced that it did not intend to re-establish ceiling prices for milk, butter, cheese and other dairy products.

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MEAT SUPPLY UP IN CHICAGO-Chicago-Prices at the Chicago stockyards went wild today, with record highs being set for cattle and lambs. Receipts both locally and at twenty major markets throughout the country zoomed back to higher than normal figures. Hog prices broke sharply before the day was over, however.

In the country farmers were using scoop shovels to throw their bumper corn crop to meat animals as fast as they would take it, presaging possibly the greatest production of beef and pork the country has ever seen.

The record price of \$35.25 a hundred pounds was paid for choice steers in Chicago today, topping the previous August high of \$30.25 by an even \$5, and yesterday's top price by \$6.50.

Lambs also set a record at \$28 a hundred pounds, up \$3 from yesterday's high of \$25.

The hog top of \$27.50 equaled yesterday's high but the best at the close of the market sold for \$26.50. In order markets hog prices broke as much as \$7.

Receipts at twenty of the biggest stockyards today were 75,700 cattle against 42,000 a week ago and 75,000 a year ago. There were 100,300 hogs, against 12,000 a week ago and 34,000 a year ago.

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RETAILERS COMPELLED TO BUY POULTRY TO GET MEAT SUPPLIES-Forced tie in sales became yesterday an important factor in the newly legitimized high priced meat trade. Many retailers were compelled to buy poultry that neither they nor their customers wanted to get lamb and other meat. This kept poultry prices at or near record highs while the price of meat ranged generally from 20 percent to 100 percent above ceilings that were destroyed Monday at midnight.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N. Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Oct. 17 -

"REASONABLE PRICES" PLEDGED-Chicago-The National Association of Retail Grocers today pledged "full cooperation" in keeping retail meat prices down. In a statement released at the association's headquarters here, Patsy D'Agostino, president of the group, called on suppliers to "help retailers maintain 'reasonable prices.'"

He said that getting meat to the nation's dinner tables at reasonable prices was more important than profits.

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SELECTIVE PRICE CONTROL-Editorial-President Truman declared in his radio talk that the program of price decontrol will have to be speeded up as a result of the elimination of meat controls. OPA Administrator Porter has stated in this connection that OPA will "announce as soon as practicable the specific list of commodities on which ceilings will be retained." All other products will be free of control. This policy is overdue. In many instances there has been much confusion as to what items remained under control when OPA issued its general decontrol directives. The establishment of a specified list of products will enable OPA to carry out the Congressional mandate to eliminate price controls from all products insignificant in business and living costs by the end of the year.

Apparently OPA will continue to control rents, automobiles, farm equipment, sugar, basic raw materials, furniture, building materials, clothing and similar products.

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U.S. SAID TO OFFER WORLD TRADE CODE-London-The draft of a standard form of trade treaty pledging observance of an international code of fair play is reported to be in the hands of the United States delegation at the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations International Trade and Employment Conference.

Although members of the United States delegation refuse to discuss the subject, delegates from other nations say they have been sounded out on the proposal and that most of them are favorably disposed toward the plan.

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STRIKE IS WIDENED TO HALT TEXTILES-Determined to cut off shipments of silk and rayon to New York dress manufacturers, the Wholesale and Warehouse Union, Local 65, CIO, extended its strike against textile converters yesterday to 150 additional concerns and announced plans for round-the-clock picketing in the heart of the garment center.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 17 -

FLOOD OF DECONTROLLED MEAT TO MARKET LOWERS FOOD PRICES GENERALLY - The avalanche of meat animals into free markets yesterday started to press down the high cost of eating in America.

As long caravans of hog trucks converged on key markets, Tuesday's sky-high hog prices sickened and slid. In Indianapolis, \$5 was lopped from the \$30 per hundredweight paid for hogs the day before. The price of porkers wilted about \$2 in St. Louis, and about \$1 in Chicago.

The weight of the "red meat" landslide bore down heavily on the backs of costly chickens and turkeys. Chicken prices in New York slumped 10 cents a pound below first-of-the week quotations. Turkeys were down 8 cents from the Monday level.

In Chicago egg futures fell the permissible limit of two cents a dozen, after declining one cent Tuesday. New York's wholesale butter prices skidded 2 cents a pound.

Repercussions were even signaled in the vegetable market. A heavy flow of produce to New York and New Jersey markets found buyer interest slackening as meat came on the horizon. Apples, beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots and brussel sprouts were reported in abundance, with consumers "resisting" prices.

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THE HITLERIAN IDEA - Editorial - It will be well to say at once that this newspaper is in complete disagreement with the statement that Congress is responsible for the breakdown of price control. Price control broke down because people refused to be ruled by the absurdities conceived by strutting bureaucrats, which is what a free people always have done and always will do.

- - -

JAPAN SEES LOVE LIFE OF SILKWORM AS KEY TO BATTLE WITH NYLON - Tokyo - The love life of the silkworm has become a matter of grave importance to Japan.

Japanese argue that their country cannot live without foreign trade; since silk is the cornerstone of that trade, Japan cannot afford to give up the American silk market to nylon.

The Japanese believe that winning the American market boils down to a race between the Japanese entomologist and the American synthetic chemist. So Japanese scientists are rapidly breeding one silkworm with another in an attempt to develop a silk fibre so sheer and so strong that no synthetic can match it.

Already the Japanese have a strong silk 9% more sheer than the best prewar quality. It is produced from the "Airplane Number One" cocoon developed during the war for parachutes but never used. It produces a smoother silk because the fibre is 50% longer. But this silkworm, ideal as a laboratory silk producer, has failed in practice. The breed is overly refined. It sickens from the smells of the ordinary farmhouse and is oversensitive to temperature changes.

* * *

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 17 -

BUTTER PRICES OFF DESPITE SHORTAGE - Butter markets weakened with prices here declining a full 2¢ under broader selling pressure and a restriction in buying interest. Chicago also dropped off 1¢. In general the weakness is arising from sentimental reasons as a result of the freeing of price controls on meats. Total supplies of butter continue far short of normal.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

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Farm Digest 2275-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 17 (Cont.) -

MEAT DECONTROL WILL RAISE PRICE OF SUGAR - As a result of the price decontrol action on meat, sugar prices for the last quarter of this year may increase, in the opinion of sugar trade interests.

The Cuban sugar price is tied to the Bureau of Labor cost of living index under the agreement between the United States and Cuba on the sugar sale. These higher prices must be passed on to consumers under the OPA Extension Act.

The extent of the increase, in the opinion of B. W. Dyer & Co., may range from 10¢ to 30 a hundred pounds.

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GRAINS AGAIN SAG AFTER BRIEF RALLY - Following brief rallies which carried from fractions to more than 2¢ a bushel, grain futures again turned downward during the morning yesterday with fairly active trading paced by selling through houses with eastern connections.

At noon Chicago time corn was unchanged to 1/4¢ lower; wheat was 1/4¢ to 1¢ down; oats had declined 3/4¢ to 1-1/4¢ while barley was unchanged to 2-1/2¢ lower.

- - -

COTTON PRICES FALL 200 POINTS AS END OF CONTROLS IS SEEN - Reacting pre- versely to the prospective end of price controls, cotton futures plummeted the full allowable limit of 200 points in a frantic session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Heavy liquidation by investment interests, the touching off of stop-loss orders, active hedging operations from the South, selling by local and New Orleans traders on the decline, and the almost complete absence of trade support, were the major factors. The final range was off 189 to 200 points.

At the close, transactions were being recorded so rapidly that sales below limits were chalked up and later removed and held invalid. Rules of the exchange forbid trading outside the 200-point range, from either previous close or daily highs or lows, whichever is at the extreme. In New Orleans, however, the spot month closed off 218 points. Rules in the Southern exchange have no limits on the spot month.

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SUPPLY-DEMAND IN COTTON GOODS - Estimated 1946 production compared with 1939--last prewar year of normal output--shows increases of from 14 percent in cotton goods to over 40 percent in woolens and worsteds. Demand, a more intangible element, is held by textile producers and manufacturers to have passed its acute phases so that decontrol now can be gotten under way. Task now is to win OPA to a similar viewpoint.

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OPA WILL ISSUE ORDER TODAY DECONTROLLING COFFEE PRICES - Washington - Price ceilings will be removed from coffee in the next day or two as a result of favorable action on the decontrol petition of the industry, the Office of Price Administrator disclosed today.

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From Boston Herald, Oct. 15 -

MEAT PRICE RISE SEEN 5-10c TO 'DOUBLE'-Boston marketmen were in agreement last night that President Truman's lifting of OPA meat controls would bring plenty of meat to store counters in this area in about a week, ending the shortage as effectively as when the restrictions were lifted temporarily last summer.

They also agreed that a rise in price would accompany the free flow of meat in sufficient volume to supply all who want it. Only disagreement was in the extent of the price increase, with estimates ranging from "twice what it costs now," to "only 5 to 10 cents a pound."

It generally conceded that after a first sharp rise, prices would gradually seek a somewhat lower level. Eventual price levels will be determined by "whether the public will buy it or leave it," one marketman bluntly put it.

From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 15 -

'WE DON'T NEED OPA,' DECLARES BAKERS' LEADER-Price control of bakery products was attacked as unnecessary yesterday by Fred L. Cobb of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the American Bakers' association, at the association's convention.

"Bakery products historically have been the nation's least expensive food because of the keen competition among America's 30,000 bakeries," Cobb asserted. "Because of this competition, baked goods prices would change but little if the office of price administration went out the window today."

"Don't forget the homemaker," Cobb warned the 2,000 baking industry representatives at the session. "She can and will bake if your prices get out of line. She is your best customer, but she can be your greatest competitor if you do not supply her with the type of bread, cake, pie, and rolls she wants at a price she is able to pay."

From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 11 -

END OF GRAIN CAR REGULATION DEEMED DISTANT-Washington-Prospects for lifting federal railroad grain car allocation requirements were slim today following industry and government admission that some confusion would stem from administration efforts to fulfill export grain commitments.

This belief was expressed as the government prepared to prosecute carriers in federal court in Minneapolis for violations of the requirements, upon recommendations of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The railroads may choose the course taken by carriers in three earlier suits by the government in which the railroads confess violations of the interstate commerce act, but rail officials foresee no possibility of escape for some violation of the commission order in view of widespread demands for boxcars.

Federal prosecution is aimed specifically at violation of Service Order 244, issued by the ICC early in the war. Under it, the government demands shippers furnish railroads such information as total amount of grain intended for shipment, destination, type of handling and prompt loading facilities.

Violations come from carriers allocating grain cars to shippers, particularly large grain dealers, who may desire cars for loading grain which at the time is not in their elevators.

From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 13-

POSTWAR PLANS FOR COTTON STILL UNDEVELOPED-The problem for which the Pace Committee is seeking the answer in its series of hearings in the South, including one in Memphis this week, is not new. The question is simply: What of the future of cotton?

The time has come when a decision must be reached one way or another and the answer is hard to determine. Not because of the economic problems involved, but because of the political implications.

The decision must be reached whether cotton will be produced on a limited acreage in the future, with an artificial price guaranteed the farmer; or will it be left to free production, with no price guarantees.

There is a third choice, which some would like to see. That is unlimited production with a price guaranteed at parity, and with parity lifted to include costs not now included in figuring the relation of cotton to other commodities.

If acreage is to be limited in the future and the price artificially maintained, it must mean that the cotton grower is prepared to see his markets for cotton dwindle from year to year as synthetics and other fibers take over on a price basis.

From Davenport Democrat, Oct. 11 -

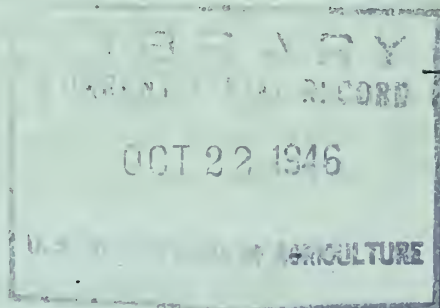
AFTER THE FAT YEARS-Editorial-Income from farm products, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is heading toward a total that may be as much as 10 per cent higher than the record \$20,681,000,000 in 1945.

Farm income of \$23,000,000,000 should spell prosperity for those who live on the land even tho the things farmers buy cost 75 per cent more than formerly. But the flood of cash from high prices--and farmers enjoyed a rich bonanza during the period when price controls were off--has not erased the memory of what happened after World War I.

No doubt it is in answer to insistent questions that the Department of Agriculture has published a study called "Changes in Farming in War and Peace." This pamphlet declares that there is no road back from the revolutionary increase in farm production that has taken place in the last 25 years. The time is coming, it says, when a choice between restricting output and maintaining consumption will be inevitable.

The study favors the second alternative, partly because it is "less difficult" and partly because farmers are as much entitled to "income insurance" as workers are to minimum wages and unemployment relief. It says, moreover, that "procedures can be developed that will promote a high demand for farm products for domestic consumption, for industrial uses, and for export."

What these procedures are is not revealed. But apparently they would be instituted by government, for the study reveals little faith in the workings of a free market. It will be necessary to be on the watch for them for that reason.



Farm Digest: 2275-46-6

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 18 -

CATTLE AND HOG PRICES CUT SHARPLY BY NEAR-RECORD RUSH OF LIVESTOCK, Chicago-Meat animals flooded onto the country's livestock markets today in the largest numbers in ten months. When the rush was over virtually all prices, except those on top-grade cattle, had collapsed from \$1 to \$10 a hundred pounds.

Most commodities likewise were deflated, including butter, eggs, poultry, wheat, corn, oats and cotton. Lard, soybeans and flax kept out of the storm area, however, and moved to a new high ground.

Strictly choice cattle went to a new high mark at Chicago, however, with odd head going for \$37.50 and load lots bringing \$36. The Omaha market set a record for the third day in a row, hitting \$33, or \$2 better than yesterday.

The popular hog price at Chicago was \$20 after an early top was set at \$23 and compared with yesterday's record-equaling mark of \$27.50. Sheep also were off \$1 to \$1.50, topping at \$26.50, in comparison with yesterday's record of \$28.

Other markets showed similar reactions as buyers found difficulty in getting the rail cars to move their animals to eastern areas.

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MEAT STILL HIGH HERE, BUTTER DOWN-More meat prices moved upward yesterday in the shops of New York. Those retailers who had increased their prices moderately on Tuesday found it necessary to step them up more sharply to keep pace with a runaway wholesale market. Wholesale prices of choice beef were 238 percent of what the ceiling had been on Monday, and on pork loins they were 226 percent.

On the other side of the scales, wholesale prices of butter and eggs took a drop. It was not, however, reflected at once in retail stores. The price of poultry declined in retail shops. Some places were selling chicken for 10 and 12 cents a pound less than their prices of Monday. Despite the reduction, prices were still far above the ceilings of June 30.

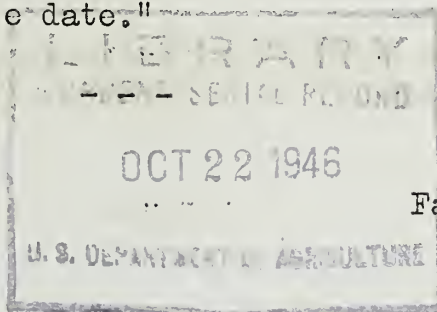
Although meat supplies were still far below normal, the city faced the meatiest week-end since early September.

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OPA LIFTS COFFEE CONTROLS; FEED GRAINS DECONTROLLED, Washington- All price controls over coffee were removed today by the Office of Price Administration. The action, effective immediately, represented the first approval by the agency of a formal petition for decontrol submitted by industry.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture removed all restrictions on the use and distribution of feed grains, protein meal and soybeans "in accordance with the department's over-all program to discontinue controls on agricultural products at the earliest possible date."

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)



Farm Digest 2285-46

From The New York Times, Oct. 18 -

COTTON SLUMPS \$10 A BALE; CHARGE OF BEAR RAID DENIED-While officials of the New York Cotton Exchange were disputing a charge that the Exchange was involved in any plan to depress cotton prices, the market reeled yesterday under heavy liquidation and hedge selling. Losses of 200 points, or \$10 a bale, the maximum permissible decline in a single session, were recorded on the second successive day that values had fallen the limit.

The "bear raid" charge was made by Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, who said the "raid" had caused farmers a \$225,000,000 loss in the last three days and resulted from a "definitive and well laid plan among cotton exchanges, cotton brokers and their clients." Mr. Thomas called upon the Department of Agriculture to collect data from exchanges on all short accounts. G. I. Tolson, vice president of the Cotton Exchange here denied the charge of a "bear raid."

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FAO HEAD DEFENDS AIMS OF U.N. BODY, Washington-Sir John Boyd Orr, director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, dismissed as "a complete misconception" today the charge that the FAO would abolish private trade.

The United Nations food chief said that the world food program would neither abolish trade nor interfere with the operations of commodity exchanges.

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TEXAS CATTLE THIN, REQUIRE FATTENING, Amarillo, Tex.-There are plenty of cattle on Panhandle and other Texas range territory, but much of it is still too light to send to slaughter houses. A tour of ranges in this area bore out this fact. While trading in local and Fort Worth stock yards has been heavy, a large percentage of thin stock is heading for feeder lots in Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Apparently heeding Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's plea to speed cattle marketings, ranchers here say they are shipping every possible head from the ranges.

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MEXICAN CATTLE NOT RUSHED TO U.S., Nogales, Ariz.-Although 1,500,000 head of cattle were reported grazing on the adjacent ranges of the Mexican State of Sonora, there were no signs of a stampede across the border tonight as the ban on Mexican cattle was scheduled to end at midnight.

Even if there had been a rush toward this port of entry it was likely that it would have been halted by a technicality. Up to a late hour the Collector of Customs here had received no official notification of the rescinding of the quarantine imposed in June to guard against the spread of the hoof and mouth disease.

TRADING TO RESUME IN COFFEE FUTURES-Trading in coffee futures on the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange will be resumed Monday after a suspension of almost five years.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 18 -

MAXIMUM FOOD DECONTROL FIXED AS OPA OBJECTIVE - Washington - With only about 12 percent of the nation's food bill still under the control of maximum prices, Office of Price Administration officials are working closely with the Department of Agriculture to wipe out even more controls in the food field.

Of the products still continuing under controls, flour and bakery products, and sugar and confectionery products may be the only ones to remain controlled after the next few weeks. OPA officials, it was disclosed, are working toward a maximum decontrol in the food field, but in some segments the decontrol is being delayed by the reluctance of USDA to do away with some of its production and distribution controls.

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DAILY PRICE INDEX DROPS - Old man "supply and demand" quickly took over after the sudden speed-up in price decontrol--which now gives OPA at best, another few months to live, an analysis of current commodity price trend shows.

The action of major commodity prices since President Truman's fateful announcement not only confounded the prophets of doom who had predicted uncontrollable inflation as the result of such decontrol but surprised even cool-headed commodity analysts by the promptness and clarity of the price adjustments which followed.

On the third day after meat decontrol, The Journal of Commerce daily index of sensitive prices actually showed a decline from 266.6 to 260.2.

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PRICE READJUSTMENTS - Editorial - The commodity price structure has been greatly distorted by five years of fixed ceilings, during which only piecemeal and limited changes in prices have been permitted. Termination of controls is bound to be followed by numerous readjustments that will make for conflicting price trends over the next few months.

Already, we have seen how the end of ceilings can bring out a flood of offerings that makes for price weakness after initial markups. In live stock markets, a great rush of selling has reversed the price trend. A similar development is evident in some textile markets, where the end of uncertainty over the future of ceilings has been followed by heavy offerings of goods. The abrupt break in the raw cotton market, in turn, reflects expectations of larger supplies of textiles that will reduce pressure for new production, and thus bidding for cotton by mills.

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PACE OUTLINES COTTON PROGRAM - Memphis - A seven-point program to help King Cotton in his fight for markets at home and abroad was proposed in Memphis today by Representative Stephen Pace of Georgia, one of the nation's leading authorities on agriculture.

Representative Pace is chairman of a subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture, which today held the first of three days of hearings with cotton planters called in to give their views of marketing quota laws, outlined the following steps: 1. Mechanization in planting, cultivating and harvesting. 2. Speed selection and treatment. 3. Building up the fertility of the soil. 4. Selecting the best type for each area. 5. Shifting from high-cost to low-cost production areas. 6. Improved methods of disease and insect control. 7. A greatly expanded one-variety program.

(Turn to page 4 for other items
from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

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DECLINE CONTINUES IN GRAIN FUTURES - Nervousness created by the abrupt ending of controls on many commodities imparted a weak undertone to the entire grain list during early trading at Chicago yesterday.

Wheat futures were weak at the outset with the March and May deliveries selling off the permissible daily 5¢ limit with only partial recoveries occurring during the morning and other grains moved over a wide range with the bulk of the trading done below previous closing levels.

At noon Chicago time wheat was 2-1/4¢ to 3-3/4¢ lower; corn was 1/2¢ to 1¢ down; oats had declined 1-1/2¢ to 2-1/4¢ while quotations on barley, in which trading was at a standstill, were 1/2¢ higher to 1/2¢ lower.

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REMOVAL OF FLOUR CEILINGS AWAITED - Prompt action by the OPA in removing shortening from price control following ending of livestock and meat price curbs was viewed as a favorable augury for similar early action on flour and bakery goods.

Meanwhile, all activity in flour was at a complete standstill with mills unable to cover their costs under existing flour price schedules owing to sharp advances in wheat prices over the past month. The squeeze was most acute on high gluten flour for which an extremely active demand prevailed. Offerings of high gluten have been practically non-existent for several weeks.

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ANDERSON PREDICTS MORE SOAP OUTPUT - Indianapolis - The present "active live stock market" and larger than anticipated importations of copra from the Philippines will combine to alleviate the present soap shortage, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson asserted today.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18 -

COMMODITY PRICES SLIDE DOWNHILL; MEANS LOWER FOOD AND CLOTHING BILLS - The high cost of living went over the post-war peak and started down hill in the past 48 hours. That's the appraisal commodity men place on the sharp down-grade slide in raw material prices which got under way Wednesday and continued yesterday.

You may not notice it immediately in prices of things you buy at retail. But it's on the way--cheaper clothes, cheaper food.

In the past three days, the Dow-Jones commodity futures index, which in effect measures what people think commodities will sell for in the months ahead, has tumbled seven points. That's the most drastic break since compilation of the index was begun in 1933. Included in the index are food-staple wheat and clothing-staple cotton.

The great deluge of free-market, meat-on-the-hoof which started a general weakening in wholesale food prices Wednesday continued yesterday. And new cracks were opened in the high wall of costly eating.

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DISTILLERS, BREWERS LIMITED - Washington - Action by the Department of Agriculture freeing corn and other feed grains from restrictions on use does not apply to distillers and brewers, grain officials of the agency explained. No relaxation on the use of grain by distillers is in sight as yet, Government grain men said.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 16 -

MR. TRUMAN MAKES A POLITICAL VIRTUE OF SHEER NECESSITY--Historically, President Truman's reasons for lifting meat price controls can be assigned the value of a wad of slightly used bubble gum or a cigar box of old razor blades. Making a virtue of necessity is a hoary political maneuver. It is also good politics to blame the opposition for placing the flypaper under your foot.

Mr. Truman discovered, or was perhaps persuaded by his advisers, that hunger can't be assuaged by meatless platitudes. The basic reason for all scarcities today is not that Republican opponents of price controls succeeded in forcing the President to sign a weak extension bill but that controls were not extended at all after they had outlived their wartime usefulness.

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From Kansas City Star, Oct. 15 -

ACTION AT LAST ON MEAT--Editorial--The President has made a sensible decision by reversing himself and removing the ceilings on meat. This belated action was forced by political considerations, although it is exceedingly doubtful whether the meat shortage can be relieved within time to produce the desired political results. That, however, is a secondary consideration.

The important fact is that the restrictive controls are at last discarded and that the benefits will go to the millions of American people. Had this step been taken months ago those benefits would have been evident today in a fair supply of meat and perhaps at reasonable prices. As it is, there will be considerable delay because the effects of bungling management over a long period cannot be at once overcome.

It is evident that Mr. Truman arrived at his decision with the utmost reluctance and only after the urgent warnings from his party leaders that political disaster would be the alternative. The President had deliberately chosen to sit tight and hold the controls. Less than three weeks ago he had read a carefully prepared statement at his press conference in which he asserted that ceilings had nothing to do with the meat shortage, that the situation would improve shortly and that people should be patient in the meantime. To make it stronger, he added that he knew what he was talking about.

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From Detroit Free Press, Oct. 16 -

TRUMAN BACKS OUT OF A MESS OF HIS OWN MAKING--Confronted by a rising and irresistible tide of public indignation, President Truman Monday night surrendered to the inevitable and lifted all Government controls on meat.

His surrender was neither graceful nor in good temper.

The Meat situation, which actually is only symbolic of the effects of arbitrary bureaucratic attempts to control a free economy, was attributed by Mr. Truman to everything and everybody--from selfish business interests to rebellious Congressional elements.

But there was no mention of his own failures. And in the light of cold analysis, these precipitated the meat crisis just as they have had a deterring effect on the free flow of other consumer items.

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From Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 15 -

AN END TO MEAT CONTROLS-Editorial-Americans are going to have more meat. They are going to pay higher prices for it. And the whole program for de-control of prices is going to be speeded up. Most of the task of combating inflation is going to be shifted from the Government to the people themselves. That is the essence of President Truman's radio announcement.

The meat situation had manifestly reached the impossible stage. Mr. Truman's explanation was far from complete. It left out the serious mistakes of his own Administration. These began with the rush to end rationing and other controls after VJ-Day. They include his own statement a year ago in which he favored wage increases without recognizing that such increases would add to the pressures against price controls. They include some of the red-tapish conduct of OPA which curtailed production.

But much of his case against Congress is justified. It did delay unreasonably. It did show more regard for special interests seeking higher prices than for consumers seeking protection against inflation. It did act irresponsibly in permitting the price holiday.

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From Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 14 -

WOMEN MARCH FOR CHEAPER MILK-Seattle, Wash., (UP)-More than 1,000 indignant housewives converged on city hall square Monday to protest the soaring price of milk.

"We'll travel country lanes until we see someone with a cow," one woman said. "We'll milk the cow ourselves before we pay this increase in price."

The women were roused to action when producers and dairies recently raised the price of milk $2\frac{1}{2}$ c to 22c a quart and boosted the prices of other dairy products.

"We're on strike against high dairy products 'til the cows come home--and that's no bull," one banner read.

Another declared. "Babies cry for it, but their daddies can't pay for it."

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 15 -

COUNTRY COTTON PRICES PROVING BETTER THAN SPOT MARKET PRICES-Puzzling to the cotton trade is the manner in which prices in the country continue to rule above the spot markets, in spite of the apparent reluctance of mills to improve the basis. Early season reports of such sales were shrugged off with the belief that it was seasonal covering by short interests. Continuation thus far into the season apparently means that some other cause must be found. Normally the condition is just the reverse.

Farmers are reported disposing of their cotton rapidly, demanding current prices, but being willing to sell at the gin platform, where there is, apparently, a ready market.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4094. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the New York Times, Oct. 21 -

SUNDAY SLAUGHTER AIDS MEAT SUPPLY; PRICE TEST NEARS - An almost unprecedented Sunday slaughter converted 180 beef cattle that reached this city yesterday morning into 150,000 pounds of meat that was distributed last night to several hundred retail butcher shops.

The animals were part of a rail shipment from the Midwest of 320 head delivered to a Brooklyn slaughterhouse that had been idle for two months. Reopened as a joint venture by retailers, the one slaughterhouse is to process 1,000 animals a week. Jack Kranis, attorney for the operators said he believed the maintenance of such a constant flow of cattle would force down retail prices by 10 to 20 cents a pound.

With other independent slaughterers expecting heavier receipts than recently and the major packers resuming killing today in their New York plants-- some of which had been idle for seven weeks -- it appeared last night that the meat famine had been conquered in this city, for the time being, anyway.

This week will bring a test of how much a relatively substantial supply of meat will depress retail prices. Following the end of meat control on Tuesday prices went skyward.

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MEAT WELCOMED ON NATION'S TABLES, Chicago - (UP) - Meat was back on thousands of Sunday dinner tables today for the first time in weeks. A survey showed that butcher shops received a wide variety of meat cuts for sale Saturday but at prices which many housewives could not afford. Beef was plentiful in some cities, but all pork cuts except bacon were scarce.

Shipments of fresh meat to Washington, D.C., increased by 300,000 pounds within thirty-six hours, but Saturday shoppers found only limited supplies and prices were high.

The Atlanta Retail Food Dealers Association said meat had been shipped into the city "with surprising speed." The association said there was no indication in Atlanta that shoppers were refusing to pay high prices because "they want to taste meat too bad now. Maybe in ten days that will come."

The Buffalo Retail Meat Dealers Association reported "pretty good" local meat supplies but that choice cuts were "going begging" because they were too expensive.

Miami meat dealers said they had plenty of beef, but that prices were rolling skyward. Steak was selling there for \$1 a pound, and chopped steak for 85 cents. At Pittsburgh chops were selling for as \$1.05 a pound and in Chicago, some markets offered spare ribs and round steak for \$1 a pound.

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TRUCE SEEN NEAR IN MARINE STRIKE - A settlement of the nation-wide maritime strike drew closer over the week-end as intensive negotiations were held here between operators and two Merchant Marine officers' unions.

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(Turn to page 2 for other items
in today's N.Y. Times.)

From the New York Times, Oct. 21 -

UNRRA CHIEF SEES HUNGER IN POLAND - Warsaw - An "extremely difficult" food situation in Poland until the 1947 fall harvest has been gathered was predicted today.

Charles M. Drury of Montreal, chief of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's mission here, warned that the average consumption of city dwellers would be reduced to 1,250 calories daily by next spring if no replacements for UNRRA imports were received. "There will be great suffering, particularly for the urban population of Poland, unless some means can be provided whereby Poland can secure outside assistance after the UNRRA goes," he said.

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ANDERSON PROMISES PLENTY - Los Angeles - There will be plenty of good beef for the average family and the price is coming down, Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, said today.

Mr. Anderson arrived here for a speech to be delivered later this week on farm policy, crop insurance, soil conservation, and the meat situation.

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BREAD DECONTROL HINTED - Washington - The Government is considering removal of price ceilings from flour, bread, other bakery products and breakfast cereals within a day or so.

A high Agriculture Department official who asked not to be quoted said today that OPA and the department had "just about come to the conclusion" that these products should be decontrolled.

However, present restrictions on the use of wheat will be continued for the time being, this official said. They include a prohibition against the use of wheat in making distilled spirits and limit the distribution of flour for domestic consumption to 85 percent of the amount used a year ago.

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TREE-PLANTING PROGRAM - Editorial - The public naturally looks to the Department of Agriculture for leadership in tree planting. It is obvious that the production of forest seedlings by the tens of millions calls for a nation-wide program through the State Departments of forestry. Federal assistance is logical. Adequate timber resources are essential in peace and war. Farmers and commercial timberland owners are increasingly realizing that trees must be planted if they are to be harvested. The Forest Service program merits public support.

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VETERANS WHO ASPIRE TO A FARMER'S LIFE ARE TOLD THEY FIRST SHOULD TAKE A WIFE. Unless a farmer takes a wife, he cannot succeed, according to advice given yesterday to veterans who want to be farmers.

This necessary condition for success in agricultural pursuits was laid down by Dr. Gabriel Davidson, managing director of the Jewish Agricultural Society. He spoke to a group of veterans attending a poultry farmers' convention at the Educational Alliance.

Declaring that the society would help beginners in selecting a farm, getting a loan and buying equipment, Dr. Davidson added, "but the most important factor on a farm is the farm wife." For that, he did not offer the society's services, however.

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 21 -

U.S. AGENCIES SPLIT ON SURPLUS, PRICE PLANS IN ITO CHARTER - Washington - A split over the treatment of world surplus commodities and world prices had developed within the Government agencies here, where question is being raised as to the adequacy of United States proposals contained in the International Trade Organization charter for dealing with international commodity problems.

Right now nobody seems to know what position the United States Government is to take at the conference. Undersecretary of State Will Clayton apparently is holding to the view that the United States proposals in the ITO charter, covering international commodity agreements, are adequate to all purposes.

Officials of other agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, would like to see the ITO proposals reviewed at the food conference along with the so-called Orr plan for a world food board and other possible alternatives; they think the ITO provisions might conceivably be improved upon.

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NEED FOR COMMODITY EXCHANGES - Editorial - Senator Elmer Thomas has launched a crusade for more drastic regulation of commodity exchanges at the very time when the economic need for these institutions will be the greatest in many years.

With the liquidation of most price controls, producers, processors and distributors will urgently require the hedging facilities of commodity futures exchanges. Termination of controls will be followed by a transition period in which wide price swings are to be expected, particularly because of profound changes in both supply and demand conditions that occurred in the war period. Years will elapse before relative equilibrium can be restored in most markets. Under such conditions, the need for insurance against the adverse effects of price fluctuations is particularly acute.

Because the economic need for futures exchanges will be as great as ever in the years immediately ahead, hasty and ill-considered legislation that could hamper and cripple their operation should not be enacted. The Congressional committee concerned should get all the facts before taking up new legislation affecting these institutions.

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REVERSAL IN PRICE PEAK SEEN IN '47 - General commodity prices will reach an early peak, hold it temporarily, and turn downward sometime during 1947, according to a majority opinion of 72 non-Government economists participating in a survey conducted by Thomas S. Holden, president of F. W. Dodge Corporation, the findings of which were made public over the weekend.

The group polled includes economic consultants and economists connected with business corporations, banks, universities and economic research organizations.

The price recession is expected to follow a brief sluffing off in business activity, but only one of the 72 economists polled believes the period will prove serious.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 21 (Cont.) -

COTTON FLUCTUATION - Last week's sharp break in raw cotton prices was influenced by outside speculative interests with large futures holdings suddenly liquidating to get back into the stock market, made more attractive by meat decontrol and promise of end of other ceiling restrictions as soon as possible. Removal of such speculative interest is good for the market. Evidence does not warrant further decline into repetition of 1920 crash.

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GRAINS OFF SHARPLY - Grains sell off sharply on liquidation and hedging, indicated to be by cotton longs followed failure of cotton markets to open for the short Saturday session. Wheat is still a comparatively thin market and reacts more sharply to selling with distant positions dropping the 5¢ limit.

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SUGAR - The ship strike is still delaying entry of raw sugar supplies at United States ports and refiners' stocks are nearing the vanishing point. Sugar interests are urging Government movement of beets into New York to alleviate shortages.

* * *

From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 21 -

IT'LL BE A MONTH BEFORE YOU'LL GET HAM OR BACON - Chicago - Ham and bacon will not be back to support those fried eggs until about the middle of November. It takes three to four weeks to convert a hog into these smoked products.

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SOAP SHORTAGE TO CUT SYNTHETIC RUBBER OUTPUT IN NOVEMBER; LACK OF FATS OBTAINED FROM MEAT IS CAUSE - Washington - More meat means more tires. The meat muddle almost shut down the nation's synthetic rubber factories. The plants still face cuts of up to 25% in November production, however, because meat has been scarce since September 1. A more drastic cutback was expected until meat price controls were dropped and livestock flooded the markets.

Tire shortages are linked to meat because meat fats make soap and about six million pounds of soap are used monthly by the nation's 15 synthetic rubber plants at the current rate of output.

* * *

From the New York Herald Tribune, Oct. 21 -

AUSTRIANS WARN LACK OF FOOD SPELLS UNREST - Vienna - Austria faces a grim winter liable to be marked by mass unrest unless a minimum of 100,000 tons of food can be supplied within the next month to augment present allocations, official Austrian sources said today.

They maintained that the average ration must be increased from 1,250 to 1,550 calories daily, the latter corresponding with the official ration in Germany.

The government, cognizant of the trend because of a recent series of strikes has pledged an increase at the next rationing period Oct. 28 but may be able to hold off until Nov. 10 by reshuffling the Food Ministry.

* * *

Farm Digest 2295-46-4

From Huntington Farmers Guide, Oct. 15 -

BIG EATERS-Editorial-A 14 percent increase in civilian per capita food consumption so far this year, over the pre-war years of 1935-39, indicates that we should be able to help famine-stricken peoples abroad unless we are simply trying to see if we can make a record on eating. And this in spite of food shipments abroad!

Economists have predicted that for the year as a whole, Americans will eat more than they have in any previous year of frozen fruits and vegetables, meats, fresh and frozen fish, turkey, cheese, ice cream, fluid milk and cream, and will drink more coffee and tea. About the same quantities of fresh and canned fruit, vegetables, potatoes, lard, cocoa and sugar are expected to be consumed. As for the "less" items, Americans will probably eat less butter, margarine, other fats, chicken, eggs, wheat and corn products, and sweet potatoes.

About 3,300 calories a day is expected to be the intake of the average American for the year as a whole. This is about 10 percent more than the average for any country in the world except Canada.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 15 -

TRUMAN TO THE POINT-Editorial-President Truman is to be commended for straight-forwardly facing the fact that the reimposition of controls on livestock and meat has ended in failure and for adopting the obviously correct solution of ending the experiment. The temptation to camouflage this failure under some expedient, which would only have postponed the final reckoning, must have been great in this political season. This temptation he put aside.

Even though the speech itself was not as broad-gauged as the action, and resorted to an unseemly political carping and alibi-ing, the fact remains that President Truman rejected all counsel of compromise and went direct to the heart of the problem through the most clear-cut solution open to him.

There is no longer any doubt that the reimposition of this price control was a mistake. It will now be necessary for a second time to go through a stormy period of readjustment, which had been better than half-ridden out last summer when this ill-fated attempt to replace the controls was made.

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From Atlanta Constitution, Oct. 16 -

TO END THE MARGARINE TAX OUTRAGE-Editorial-Across the nation, pressure is reported building up to force Congress to eliminate the discriminatory taxes on margarine.

Incensed by the fact that butter currently retails at a dollar a pound in many areas, housewives are turning to margarine--when they can find it--and inevitably fuming at the necessity of adding color themselves or paying an exorbitant tax for that already colored.

The margarine tax is vicious. Margarine is just as wholesome as butter, perhaps even more so. Margarine is palatable. And margarine is cheaper. There is no excuse for continuing to tax it merely because it is colored with the same harmless vegetable dyes that butter makers use for their product.

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From Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 16 -

SOARING COSTS TAKE FOOD FROM CHILDREN IN N. Y.'S EAST SIDE-New York-Talk about price control down on New York's Lower East Side is not academic. It expresses a plaintive wish among parents that something could be done to block the inflationary price rises on food.

Even as the nation appeared ready to toss off most price controls -- except perhaps those on rents -- many parents in this low-income area were going hungry so their children could eat.

Settlement workers reported some children have insufficient food. A city-wide survey showed that the shortage of milk is acute, and that it is made even more drastic by the high price of 19 to 22 cents a quart.

How to secure warm clothing and shoes for growing children, how to get by, themselves, now that cold weather is near, perplexes parents in this area. Fortunately, the rent remains the same, but landlords are not eager to exterminate pests and paint up shabby rooms.

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From Watertown Daily Times, Oct. 15 -

PRICE CONTROL ON MEAT ENDS-Editorial-President Truman removes the price control on meat. It is well that he follows this course. Thus the inevitable has occurred. Now we may look for a progressive and accelerated removal of all price controls. It is better that this end come than that we continue with the present hit-and-miss patchwork pattern. Actually price control ended in this country when congress permitted the old OPA law to lapse. President Truman blames congress but this is not entirely fair. His leadership should have been strong enough to have held the line. When he signed the substitute measure, he signed the death warrant of price control. There is no way of reviving effective controls all along the line now. It is too late.

Mr. Truman takes the only step possible. In a measure he is right in saying that politics played its part. Senator Taft is partially responsible. It was inevitable probably that politics worked in. It could not be otherwise in a year when congressmen and some senators were up for reelection. But a more vigorous leadership in the White House would have inspired a following sufficiently strong to see the soundness of continued price control all along the line.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 17 -

COMPETITIVE FOODS-Editorial-Much ado has been made over the temporary boiling-up of meat prices, now that the OPA pot lid has been removed. Amid the moans and lamentations, however, is a note of good cheer to which the householder should hearken.

Prices are going down.

That is the significant note. Poultry prices are going down. So are egg prices and grain prices--and fast. The thunder of the approaching herds of cattle and hogs has sounded a knell to the unchallenged sway of omelets and fried chicken. Bacon and sirloin steaks are coming. At the sign of dust above the plain, wholesale prices have already wilted, and soon the housewife, as well, will be paying less.

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OCT 24 1946

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, October 22 -

MEAT PRICES DROP AS SUPPLIES RISE AND BUYERS BALK-Doubled receipts of livestock and firmer consumer resistance forced down meat prices yesterday in New York's wholesale markets and in some retail butcher shops.

An unusually heavy kill by independent slaughterers and a resumption in part of local operations by the major packing corporations brought about a recession of 2 to 14 cents a pound from the record wholesale prices of last week.

Some neighborhood butchers, having carried unsold supplies over the week-end because housewives had refused to pay \$1 a pound for beef and lamb, marked down their prices 10 and 20 cents and in some instances even more. Many other retailers, however, were reluctant to take a loss on supplies for which they had paid runaway wholesale prices.

The Department of Markets reported after a city-wide spot check that most retail prices were 50 percent or more above the ceilings eliminated a week ago.

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JAM AT STOCKYARDS STARTS EMBARGOES-Chicago-UP-The heaviest volume of livestock in three years jammed marketing centers today and two markets were forced to embargo further shipments until congestion is relieved.

A total of 156,300 cattle was received at the twelve major stockyards the largest run since Oct. 18, 1943, and Western railroads reported every available cattle car in use.

Sioux City, Iowa, embargoes cattle and calf shipments when animals packed into pens reached 34,000. Ogden, Utah, where cattle receipts reached 11,000, placed an embargo on further shipments.

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SUGAR PILING UP AT PORTS-Shiploads of raw sugar are piling up in eastern harbors because of the maritime strike as small bakeries close and city supplies disappear. A total of twenty nine ships, with cargoes ranging from 2,500 to 6,500 long tons of sugar are now in eastern harbors and more are coming in each day. Only one major refinery in the New York metropolitan area now is delivering sugar to retailers because of the trucking strike.

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GRUBER HERE, SCORES AUSTRIA'S FOOD LACK-Dr. Karl Gruber, Foreign Minister of Austria, declared upon his arrival early yesterday morning at La Guardia Field that extreme food shortages in Austria were providing "excellent propaganda" for the Communists.

Dr. Gruber particularly deplored the calory allotments in his country which he said was the only nation in Europe whose residents officially were on a 1,200 calory diet. He declared that even Germany was on a 1,550 calory allotment whereas Austrians in many months actually had to get along on 800 calories a day.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

- - - - Farm Digest 2305-46

From The New York Times, Oct. 22 -

COTTON PRICE DROP PUZZLES FARMERS-Decatur, Ala.--The break in the cotton market is causing puzzled shakings of the head today among the small farmers in this part of Alabama who are just now picking their cotton and taking it to be ginned. Veteran cotton buyers are recalling how the puzzlement changed to bitter resentment when they could only offer these same farmers, or their fathers, five cents a pound during the depth of the depression fifteen years ago.

Northern Alabama business men whose commerce requires them to keep close watch on the economic welfare of the cotton farmers, profess to believe that the decline in prices so far will not occasion any great distress among the small producers. The opinion is occasionally expressed that unless his living costs go higher than they are now, the small cotton farmers will realize a profit on his production at twenty five cents a pound or better.

The price decline has served however, to stimulate discussion of lessons learned during the darkest days, which are thoroughly remembered here. Much has been done since 1934 to persuade the small cotton farmer against sole reliance for cash income on the product of his cotton fields. Many of them now have other sources of revenue.

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DISCUSS TEXTILE STRIKE-The City Labor Relations Division renewed yesterday its efforts to end the textile converters' strike that has disrupted the flow of silk, rayon and other fabrics to New York dress factories.

Concerned about the imminence of widespread layoffs in the city's largest industry, Julius Kass, counsel for the division, met with Sylvan Gotshal, attorney for the Association of Uptown Converters, and a union committee.

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JERSEY FOOD PRICES DOUBLED SINCE 1939-Trenton-The State Department of Agriculture reported today that average food prices in New Jersey had almost doubled since 1939, but predicted a decline in four or five weeks if other conditions remained stable. Prospects of a widespread housewives' strike against high prices also was seen by the department if costs were "unreasonably high."

A 20 percent rise in meat prices during the shortages in September was a major factor in recent increases, D. T. Pitt, head of the department's statistical division, said. In September, average food prices in the State were 6.8 percent above those of August.

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OPA RULES ON INCENTIVE FOR WOOL FABRICS-Washington-The Office of Price Administration ruled today that domestic raw wools of equivalent of superior grades could be substituted for foreign wools and different, but not inferior reused or reprocessed wools utilized in base period woolen and worsted fabric without disqualifying them for "incentive" price increases.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 22 -

COTTON SNAPS BACK AS PRESSURE ENDS - In a boiling market yesterday cotton futures swung down the permissible limit at the opening, but recovered during the day to close 34 points up to 108 points down. The market was firm at the close.

A syndicate of leading financial and cotton houses removed the pressure exerted last week when the account of Tom Jordan, a New Orleans business man, became undermargined.

The effect of this move was seen on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday where, despite an early drop of 200 points, the market recovered the full amount later in the day. However, some hedging operations on the highs of the day resulted in new losses by closing.

The account, held by the New Orleans business man, Tom Jordan, was said to have been taken over by the leading spot houses for the interest of the wire houses that had been liquidating for the investor. The total amount of cotton involved was estimated as high as 500,000 bales on both sides of the market, according to informed sources. The crash in cotton prices on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday was considered the result of the attempt to liquidate the account across the ring. It was believed that many smaller accounts were wiped out in the decline that the liquidation precipitated.

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HIGH FARM PRODUCTIVITY - Editorial - Although the rise in agricultural prices has outdistanced that of other commodity groups, the productivity of agricultural labor has increased sharply. Production per worker in agriculture is almost 40 percent higher than it was a decade ago, whereas output per worker in many other industries has shown only small increases over the same period.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics ascribes what it calls the "revolution of farming" of recent years to four factors. These are greatly increased mechanization, heavier fertilization, improved crop varieties and soil conservation and improvement practices. All four of these factors will continue to operate, it is expected, so that further increases in the productivity of American farms are looked for over the next few years.

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PRESENT CLOTH PRICES SEEN LIKELY TO HOLD FOR NOVEMBER - Today will mark the last trading session in the reporting period OPA uses when setting the cotton cost factor for determination of November cloth ceiling prices. The indications are that, although present market prices are considerably under the 36.51¢ cotton cost figure used last month, the change from this figure shown by the base period average will be so slight that present cotton goods ceilings probably will be continued in effect for November. This should result in continued forward selling by the primary market.

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ALL GRAIN FUTURES STAGE SHARP RALLY - Improved technical conditions resulting from the sharp declines last week continue small country offerings and reports that the CCC was buying cash wheat in the Southwest attracted increased support to grains at Chicago, where prices registered substantial advances during the morning. At noon, Chicago time, wheat was up 2-1/4¢ to 3-1/2¢ a bushel, corn had advanced 1-7/8¢ to 2-1/4¢; oats were 1-1/2¢ to 2-1/2¢ higher and barley gains amounted to 1-1/2¢ to 2¢.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) - - -

Farm Digest 2305-46

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 22 (Cont.) -

SUGAR ALLOTMENT DEFICIT SEEN - A deficit of 319,263 tons of sugar is indicated in the sugar allotments set up by the Combined Food Board, according to Earl Ryan Co., sugar brokers.

The indicated deficit reflects leaks in the ration system, it is believed.

The food board set-up allotments of 5,597,000 tons for the year, but the excess disappearance is 225,000 tons. Since that quantity is 27 percent of the fourth quarter allotments of 1,187,000 tons, "it may present a serious problem in meeting ration evidence issued for the last quarter and certainly complicates the supply problem of the first sixty days of 1947," the Ryan company reports.

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SEPTEMBER COTTON REPORTS ISSUED - Washington - The Bureau of the Census reports that cotton consumed during September totaled 818,449 bales of lint and 74,556 bales of linters.

This compared with 855,511 bales of lint and 86,917 bales of linters consumed during August of this year, and 700,444 bales of lint and 77,488 bales of linters consumed during September of last year.

Consumption for the two months ended Sept. 30 totaled 1,673,960 bales of lint and 161,473 bales of linters, compared with 1,438,893 and 161,518 for the corresponding period a year ago.

* * *

From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 22 -

CRASHING COTTON PRICES WILL BE ECHOED IN CHEAPER SHIRTS, SHEETS AND TOWELS. Textile goods held for higher prices are already scurrying to market. Says one department store buyer: "We've suddenly received shipments of towels and pillow cases that were not to be made available for another month and a half."

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REAL MEAT PLENTY MAY BE YEARS AWAY IF PUBLIC BUYING POWER HOLDS UP. In the battle smoke of the control-or-not-control conflict, one basic supply-demand factor has been obscured. It's the nation's unprecedented meat hunger--asserted by cash in the pocket. Current meat demand is estimated at the annual rate of 200 pounds per person. The pre-war consumption rate was 125 pounds.

Some livestock experts claim this country cannot produce more than 175 pounds per person yearly on a sustained basis and grow other needed crops. Unless high meat prices or smaller consumer incomes cut demand, the only solution they see is to import meat or feed, or both.

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ABUNDANT COFFEE eliminates chances of runaway prices on the king of beverage beans. Coffee men see world supplies of the big breakfast commodity above 48 million bags this season. And world consumption for the season is not expected to top 28 million bags.

* * *

From the New York Times, Oct. 20, -

REPORT FROM THE NATION-Midwest States-Soil Conservation Spreading Under Steady Campaign, Omaha,-The Midwest's growing awareness of the need for soil conservation is receiving more sustained encouragement than ever before.

Conservation looms large in the rapidly expanding plans for development of the Missouri River basin. Every State and district farm meeting of the fall season has had a battery of speakers covering the subjects. Soil-conservation contests are attracting rural interest comparable to that formerly commanded by corn-husking contests.

This week still another influential group lent its voice to the conservation chorus when the Friends of the Land met here in annual convention. Head-line speakers included Chester C. Davis of St. Louis, former AAA Administrator and War Food Administrator; Louis Bromfield, author, and Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the United States Soil Conservation Service.

Each pounded the same sav-the-land theme, but Mr. Davis sounded the opening day keynote when he declared:

"As a nation we haven't managed our soil well. We have destroyed a hundred million or more acres of once fertile land, and are going ahead blindly wasting more of it. We have used up soil minerals without replacing them, and even though the depleted fields grow crops, the animals and human beings feeding on them are deficient in health."

One reason for the encouraging spread of sane farming practices has been Dr. Bennett's successful hammering at the thesis that "conservation pays." While he was speaking here this week, for example, his bureau was reporting that 203 Kansas farmers, who kept careful records, have reported that their major crop production per acre has increased 26.4 per cent through conservation farming.

THE DEEP SOUTH, Foreign Lumber is Sought As Forests Dwindle, New Orleans-The South begins to look to Central America for lumber supplies to augment its cut from dwindling heavy timber stands. Manufacturers of paper and other products are stepping up their utilization of small trees and stumps on cutover lands.

Twenty-four pulp and paper mills operating in the South during the war were manufacturing finished products. Practically all are preparing to expand, and several new ones will be built as soon as machinery is available.

Success of the Southland Mill at Lufkin, Texas, in the manufacture of newsprint from Southern woods has encouraged the organization of a company to build a newsprint mill on the Coosa River about thirty miles from Birmingham.

As in the case of the Southland Mill, capital for the Alabama plant has been advanced by Southern newspaper publishers. The Southern Mill produced 60,000 tons of newsprint annually after its completion during the war, and is expanding to double its output. Sponsors of the Alabama project expect their mill to start at about the same rate of production.

From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 19 -

COTTON HEARING ENDS WITH MOST FARMERS FAVORING QUOTA LAW-What MidSouth farmers want from Congress in the way of permanent cotton legislation was summarized by Representative Stephen Pace (D.Ga). chairman of the special congressional subcommittee, at the conclusion of a three-day public hearing late yesterday.

The overwhelming sentiment of approximately 40 representative cotton growers ranging from plantation owners to negro sharecroppers who testified before the committee, Chairman Pace said, was for:

1. Continuation of the marketing quota law, which provides for acreage control allotments when needed.
2. Continuation of the Government price support program which, by means of loan and purchase provisions, guarantees the price of cotton at not lower than $92\frac{1}{2}$ per cent parity.
3. Inclusion of farm labor costs, including family workers, in the formula for determining parity.
4. Continuation and expansion of the soil conservation program, with a possible acreage allotment "bonus" of 2 per cent for growers who employ improved farming practices.
5. Encouraging and expanding the one-variety cotton program, by which all farmers in a given community grow the same type of cotton.
6. More flexibility in the law by which national acreage allotments are fixed.
7. Maintenance of a normal carryover of about 4,000,000 bales.

From New York Herald Tribune, Oct. 20 -

AUTOIST TO GET FIRST-LINE TIRES OF RAYON CORD IN QUANTITY SOON-The passenger car tire of tomorrow will be constructed of rayon cord instead of the long used cotton fabric. Spokesmen for three major rubber companies report that rayon cord is being adopted by their firms because it gives a tire greater safety, durability, and mileage.

Next, year, when rayon supplies are more plentiful, approximately two-thirds of the 72,000,000 passenger-car tires to be built are expected to be of the rayon-cord type.

Referring to the superiority of the rayon cord passenger car tire over the cotton cord tire, a spokesman said that road tests to determine its mileage, blow-out resistance, resiliency and power consumption had definitely proved it was a better casing.

Another advantage of the rayon cord tire is its price stability. He pointed out that there is much less fluctuation in the price of rayon than in the price of cotton.

From Albion Pennsylvania News, Oct. 17 -

WASTING HARVESTS-Editorial-Throughout Pennsylvania, as in other leading fruit-growing states, practical farmers are helplessly watching millions of dollars worth of fruit crops rot away. By untold thousands of bushels--in most cases the very bushels which meant the difference between a profit and a loss on those valuable crops--apples, peaches and other fruits have been going to waste on the ground because of an avoidable acute shortage of sugar this year.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(Oct. 23, 1946)

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From the Journal of Commerce, Oct. 23 -

OPA TO DECONTROL ALL FOODS TONIGHT EXCEPT SUGAR, RICE - Washington - All foods and feeds, with the exception of sugar, rice, and some sugar products, will be removed from price controls at midnight, it was learned today at the Office of Price Administration.

Present plans of high OPA officials call for announcement of the final decontrol action in the food field, with the actual decontrol to take effect at midnight, a high official said.

At one swoop OPA will thus realize its goal of virtually ending price control in the field which, during the war years, was the price agency's most important activity.

- - -

SHIFTS IN COMMODITY PRICES SET INDEX BACK FRACTIONALLY - The majority of the commodity markets again showed an upward trend yesterday. These gains were offset, however, by a further drop in beef prices.

A strong cash market in grains with continued takings of wheat by the CCC and the easing of the curb on wheat use sent wheat, corn and oat futures up from 1¢ to 2¢. The raw cotton market settled down to a more normal pace, showing the first upward movement in over a week. Extremely heavy trade buying sent the market up to close up 108 to 135 points in the future position. The spot market at Galveston cleared 125 points for the day.

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SHIP STRIKE TALKS ENTER FINAL PHASE - Atlantic and Gulf operators went to work with negotiators for the AFL Masters Mates & Pilots Association yesterday to clear away the last obstacles to a final settlement of the shipping strike, but it appeared that several more days would be required before the three-week shipping tie-up would be ended.

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COTTON SWINGS LAID TO LIVERPOOL CLOSING - Liverpool - (AP) - The Liverpool Cotton Association Committee attributed fluctuating prices in United States cotton market today to closing of the Liverpool Exchange.

"The violent fluctuations in the price of cotton in the United States in the last few days with the drastic and arbitrary raising of prices to the Lancashire mills are mainly caused by the lack of the stabilizing influence formerly exerted by the Liverpool cotton market," the committee said in a statement.

The Liverpool Exchange was closed during the war when the British Government took over the bulk purchasing of cotton. The Government has announced the market, which also dealt in futures, will remain closed.

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(Turn to page 2 for other items
in today's Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 2315-46

From The Journal of Commerce - Oct. 23 -

NEW GROUP URGED TO RULE SHIP RATES - Creation of a new Government agency to regulate the rates and practices of steamship freight conferences is being advocated by the Import Advisory Committee to the Department of Commerce, it was revealed here yesterday.

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RECORD FEED SUPPLIES - Editorial * The supply of feed grains per animal unit on American farms is the largest on record this year. Aggregate supplies for the 1946-47 season are estimated at 138,000,000 tons by the Department of Agriculture, or 10 per cent larger than in the preceding season. Since live-stock and poultry numbers have declined in the interim, the supply of feedstuffs per animal has increased even more sharply.

Large feed supplies will have important consequences. They encourage heavier feeding of livestock, especially since price controls on livestock and meat have been lifted. With large numbers of feeder cattle available, larger meat supplies should result within the next few months. The spring pig crop also is now likely to be larger.

Another effect of bumper feed crops is to discourage wheat feeding to livestock. This will reduce pressure on wheat supplies and end fears of a grain shortage. Relaxation of grain consumption controls has already been brought about by the improved supply outlook.

- - -

PRIMARY MARKET SEEN AIDED BY COTTON PRICE CORRECTION - A check among leading Worth Street merchants yesterday disclosed that the majority opinion regarded the break in raw cotton prices last week as a salutary correction of a situation that held elements of real danger.

They pointed out that the price of goods since last June has been advanced at the primary level close to 25 percent and that had cotton continued to sell at its recent peaks for another ten days, mills would have been entitled to another 2¢ a pound increase in the price of goods for November. Many merchants have been fearing that continuation of this trend would see many staple items simply priced out of the market so that despite the known existence of large shortages, merchandise might back up sharply. The raw staple price correction has averted this possibility, it is generally believed.

- - -

COTTON PRICES UP ON MILL FIXATIONS - Cotton futures bounded upward as much as \$6.75 a bale as the last of the liquidating pressure of margin accounts evaporated in an active session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The market closed firm, with gains of 108 to 135 points in all positions.

The pressure which had led to the 6¢ decline in prices over the last week were a mere trickle of outside selling orders yesterday. A few small accounts appeared to remain undermargined. These were easily absorbed by mills in early trading.

Reports indicated that the total amount of the large long interest taken over by a leading spot house included about 145,000 bales scattered over current crop months and about 30,000 bales of straddles.

From the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 23 -

STOCK YARDS' RECEIPTS FALL IN EMBARGOES - Chicago - The boom in livestock receipts, touched off last week by the removal of OPA controls subsided sharply today as some markets declared embargoes against further arrivals of meat animals until the numbers on hand can be shipped out to packing plants.

Despite the drop in receipts, however, prices were mixed in most live-stock markets. Generally, choice cattle and sheep were higher and hogs lower.

Most of the commodity markets showed an upward trend, with higher prices on wheat, corn, oats, cotton, butter, soybeans, soybean oil, cottonseed and cottonseed oil.

Lower were eggs, poultry and coffee. The decline in eggs and poultry was slight, however.

Cattle receipts, for the first time since the recent flood of shipments began, fell below a year ago, totaling 61,100 in the twelve principal markets. Receipts yesterday were 156,800 and a year ago, 65,852.

Hog shipments were still heavy today, however, totaling 70,800 against 62,500 yesterday and 37,298 a year ago. Sheep were 48,300 compared with 118,000 yesterday and 52,460 a year ago.

The embargoes on further livestock receipts were declared so a traffic jam in animals could be cleared up.

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MARITIME UNIONS FREE 17,000,000 POUNDS OF SUGAR FOR REFINING - Two striking maritime unions--the Masters, Mates and Pilots Association (AFL) and the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (CIO)--last night agreed to release two shiploads of raw sugar now tied up at the docks of the American Sugar Refining Company.

Unloading of the sugar will begin this morning, the unions and sugar company officials announced.

August Merker, head of the local refinery, said that some of the 17,000,000 pounds of raw sugar in the two ships should be on the shelves of Baltimore grocery stores by Friday morning.

"We are releasing this sugar because we do not want babies, hospitals and various institutions to continue suffering because of the acute lack of sugar," Capt. M. O. Butler, head of the MPA strike committee, said.

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OPA BUYING NEWS IS GOOD AND BAD - Washington - OPA today mixed good and bad news for consumers.

It boosted ceiling prices on pork and beans, baked beans and other beans 2 to 3 cents a can.

At the same time it announced that the recent downward skid of cotton would obviate higher price tags in November on shirts, dresses and a long list of cotton goods.

Processors of the canned beans won an immediate increase in their ceilings. As soon as their cans reach grocers the retail ceilings will go up for consumers.

OPA explained that the bean boost resulted from a combination of causes: The supply of all dry edible beans--navy, lima, kidney and other beans sold in bulk--is short this year. Ceilings on the dry beans were raised about 3 cents a pound last month at retail levels.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from - - -
today's Baltimore Sun.)

From the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 23 (Cont.) -

BAKING INDUSTRY ACTS TO WIPE OUT CONTROLS - Washington - The baking industry today pressed its efforts to wipe out controls on bread and bakery products--a move under Government consideration.

It asked Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, for a formal hearing on a petition for decontrol which was denied yesterday by Robert H. Shields, administrator of the Department's production and marketing administration, acting for the Secretary.

Anderson must grant such a hearing within ten days unless his department and the OPA agree in the meantime to lift ceilings. Should the petition be denied after a hearing, the baking industry could appeal to the three-man Price Decontrol Board.

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NEW HIGH LEVEL REACHED BY COMMODITY INDEX - New high levels were reached in wholesale commodity prices as indexed by the National Fertilizer Association for the week ended last Saturday.

The index climbed 2.3 percent over the preceding week 1.1 percent over the previous peak of late August to a level of 178.4.

The Government's action in decontrolling livestock, meats, fats and oils was responsible for the rise.

A year ago the index (based on 1935-39 average as 100) stood at 141.1.

The largest upturn occurred in farm products, with the livestock subgroup jumping almost 16 percent and more than offsetting a sharp drop in cotton and smaller decline in grains.

Milk prices rose to the highest level on record. The foods index advanced 2 percent and according to the association's report this gain may be understated as there were no reliable quotations for meats last week. Butter prices dropped sharply during the week. Textiles declined slightly.

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END OF CONTROL ON SHOES SOUGHT - Washington - Removal of price controls on shoes, leather and hides is necessary to increase production of these items, industry representatives said today.

They expressed this view at a conference with Judge John C. Collett, an aide of John R. Steelman, reconversion director.

A spokesman for Collett said that heretofore industry officials had taken the stand that decontrol of meat would clear the way for greater production of shoes and materials.

"They have changed their minds," the spokesman said. "They believe now that controls should be removed."

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BRAZIL COFFEE REQUEST IS WITHDRAWN BY U. S. - Washington - The State Department announced today that the United States has withdrawn a request that Brazil place 500,000 bags of coffee on the American market during October.

The department said the request was canceled in view of OPA decontrolling coffee prices.

* * *

From Kansas City Times, Oct. 17 -

AN UNEVEN MEAT FLOW, Jefferson City, -Although meat controls have been lifted it will be a long time before the housewife can fill her market basket with several different cuts of beef and pork, Tom R. Douglass, Missouri commissioner of agriculture, said today.

Douglass said there will be sporadic supplies of beef for a little while, but that it may be from three to six months before the beef supply will level off into regular production so that consumers will be able to get any cut of beef daily that they may desire.

On pork, Douglass said the outlook was still darker. There may be a little pork between now and the latter part of November but after that it will be a full year before the supply becomes plentiful.

In discussing whatever political implications might come out of the lifting of controls, Douglass said it is possible that the farmers may have softened a bit in their attitude toward the administration.

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From Alabama Farmers State, Oct. 21 -

FREE MARKET FOR MEAT-Editorial-Price controls have been removed from livestock. The Farm Bureau has insisted from the first that no other sensible way existed to obtain a satisfactory distribution of meat among consumers.

The evidence supports this contention. Expiration of controls on June 30 and the two months without them that ensued brought meat to millions in greater abundance. Inevitably, prices advanced. That they advanced as much as they did, however, may be safely attributed to the fact that everyone knew controls were off temporarily and sooner or later would be reinstated. Such a condition did not permit legitimate slaughterers to order their business in such a manner as to get prices down. The brief spell of free trade was not long enough to see competition work. Even so, there were signs that prices were about to level off when controls were re-imposed.

Apparently controls are permanently off. Growers and slaughterers have clamored for this. It is now their responsibility to see that prices do not shoot up to prohibitive levels.

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From Detroit Free Press, Oct. 18 -

THE NEW DECONTROL POLICY-Editorial-Though meat was the pivot of price control controversy, it evidently at last became clear to Mr. Truman that the trouble wasn't meat scarcity alone.

He finally sensed the basic fact that the bulk of the American public had become first dubious about the virtue of price regulation and then openly hostile to it.

Bluntly, the Country was fed up. It was weary of economic tampering in an era when national emergency, with its inescapable scarcities and the consequent desirability of control, no longer existed.

The quick follow through in removing ceilings from sundry cooking ingredients and the Decontrol Board's decision not to impose controls on dairy products is sufficient proof, even if tacit, that the Administration has fastened finally upon a policy of hastened decontrol.

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From Boston Herald, Oct. 18 -

THE DECONTROLLERS FALTER-Editorial-"The way to decontrol is to decontrol." Since President Truman announced the accelerated removal of regulations, Price Administrator Paul Porter and others high in the OPA have entered a vague dissent. "Price ceilings must be retained on important commodities where demand is still in excess of supplies," Porter declares, and his lieutenants are warning against any "pell-mell rush" to sweep away restrictions.

Let's not have any disillusionment about this. Accelerated decontrol won't wait on that will-o'-the-wisp production-supply balance that OPA has been pursuing in reverse ever since the war. Our economy, as some of the gentlemen in Washington still refuse to recognize even when the President has, is too complex.

The OPA, for instance, thinks it must maintain controls on farm equipment. Why? Well, for one thing the Minneapolis-Moline Implement Company has \$4,000,000 in tractor parts tied up because it can't buy \$15.00 worth of low carbon steel, the production of which has been discouraged by low ceilings. Repeat this in farm machinery plants all over the country, and you have a picture of how controls perpetuate controls.

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From Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 16 -

AMERICAN PEOPLE GET THEIR BEEFSTEAKS HEAVILY FLAVORED WITH POLITICS-Editorial-In President Truman's address to the nation announcing the removal of meat from price control he blamed congress for the failure of anti-inflation measures. So far as he went, there is truth in the charge, but he did not go far enough. He cannot escape some of the blame, nor can the lobbyists and pressure groups be totally absolved in the deplorable state of affairs.

Although Mr. Truman did offer a mild warning before the substitute OPA measure was voted by congress and did veto one proposal, he cannot escape a large share of the responsibility. A vigorous course of action on the part of the president and an uncompromising attitude toward any half-way measures such as was finally passed, could, at least for political purposes, have kept Mr. Truman's record straight.

No words of explanation, no alibis of good intentions, and no pointing of fingers will change the facts of the price dilemma. It was a situation which could have been foreseen and which indeed Mr. Truman says he did foresee. But mild warnings and half-hearted approval of a price control bill which was admittedly bad are not measures to be used against inflationary perils. The president and his administration were "outsmarted."

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From Washtenaw Post-Tribune, Oct. 17 -

ASKING FOR IT-Editorial-"I tremble for my country," said Thomas Jefferson, "when I reflect that God is just."

Surely he would tremble today, on learning of the most recent sad step in the history of OPA, in which, following the president's address Monday, the last vestiges of control over prices and wages have been slated for removal, and the way opened wide to rampant inflation. Only controls on rents and a few scarce commodities remain, and it may be expected that pressures to be brought on Congress after January 1st, will see their removal too.

We are seeing the closing scenes in the last act of a play in which not the hero but the villain is triumphant.

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RECORD
OCT 28 1946

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 24 -

NEARLY ALL FOODS AND DRINKS FREED OF PRICE CONTROL-Washington-All foods and beverages which were still under price controls, with the exception of sugar, syrups, molasses and rice, were freed today by the Office of Price Administration.

Also freed were all sales of food and beverages by restaurants and other sellers.

Released likewise were seven of the remaining controlled edible oils and several important inedible oils, but retained under ceilings, in recognition of limited soap and paint supplies, were those inedible oils which are important soap and paint ingredients.

Today's orders, which brought to an end virtually all wartime food controls, were effective at midnight. They left only 3 percent of the family food budget under price control.

Principal food products freed of ceiling prices were flour, bread and bakery products, canned fish, candy, bananas and oranges, canned tomatoes and tomato products, canned pineapple and pineapple juice, breakfast cereals and macaroni and spaghetti.

The OPA said that its broad action completed the removal of price control on all raw and processed foods, both domestic and imported and all beverages, including beer, whisky and soft drinks, with the following exceptions.

Sugar and sugar solutions, including all grades of edible syrups and molasses and blackstrap molasses. Corn sugar and corn syrup. Blended syrups which contain at least 20 percent by weight or volume of sugar, sugar solutions, corn sugar or corn syrup, either singly or in combination. Rough and finished rice.

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SUGAR IS PROMISED AS TWO REFINERIES END TRUCK TIE-UP-New York housewives, bakers and diners-out got the promise of more sugar last night as the city's two biggest sugar refineries granted striking truck drivers a 31-cents-an-hour wage increase.

The promise will not mean much until the wartime strike is settled, however, although there was some hope that the refineries could obtain the immediate cooperation of American Federation of Labor longshoremen in unloading twenty eight shiploads of raw sugar now in port. This hope was strengthened by reports from Baltimore that striking maritime unions had allowed stevedores to pass their picket lines and unload 17,000,000 pounds of raw sugar there.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

From New York Times, Oct. 24 -

MEAT GOES BEGGING, PRICES STAY UP; BUYERS CANNY AND RECEIPTS MOUNT-Meat went begging in the city yesterday as prices failed to drop a figure housewives were willing to pay.

After some declines on Monday and Tuesday from last week's inflated highs, a steadying of retail prices was reported by the Department of Markets. The only general reduction was in the price of porterhouse and sirloin steaks, which went from 95 cents in most stores to 89 cents. This was still about 50 percent above the former ceiling price. Other meat prices were, in general, the same as on Tuesday.

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FLOUR PRICES TO INCREASE-Chicago-Herman Steen, executive secretary of the Millers National Federation, estimated today that flour prices would advance 25 to 60 cents a hundred pounds as a result of the removal of flour ceilings.

"Most of the cost involved in flour prices is based on wheat, and the price of wheat has gone up quite substantially in the last thirty days," he said.

The higher prices, he said, would vary with different types of flour, but would apply to all types of buyers.

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RETAIL GROCERS AIM TO HOLD PRICE LINE-Chicago-National representative of grocers and restaurateurs said today that they did not expect prices would be increased generally despite the lifting of price ceilings.

Mrs. R. M. Kiefer, secretary manager of the National Association of Retail Grocers, representing 60,000 grocers, said that "independent grocery retailers are determined to hold the price line."

"They felt supplies are sufficient on a majority of food products so that prices can be held," she explained, but added that prices would advance until supply met demand.

Armin Kusswurm, attorney for the National Restaurant Association, said that restaurant owners expected no general increase in menu prices and "only some advances where food items at the wholesale level have been increased."

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JAPAN TO SHIP SILK LININGS-Tokyo-The first shipment of 18,000,000 linear yards of Japanese silk lining fabrics will leave Yokohama on Nov. 5 for San Francisco aboard the Clovis Victory, it was announced today. The consignment was ordered by Allied Headquarters to help ease a shortage hampering men's and women's suit production in the United States.

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VACCINE HELD CURE ON ANIMAL CANCER-Washington-Russia's new vaccine cancer cure has been proven on animals, but still is in its early experimental stages for human beings, Dr. V. V. Parin, Secretary General of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the U. S. S. R. said today.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 24 -

FOOD INDUSTRY SEEN FACING ACUTE PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT TO NEW POSTWAR PRICING BASIS - Sharp immediate price rises on many of the processed foods decontrolled as of midnight last night will be witnessed, with a gradual "leveling off" process to follow on some lines and markets established on a firm trading basis by the end of the year, food industry spokesmen here predicted last night.

Wartime price controls have upset normal price relationships between different food products to such an extent that it will take some time—even under the free play of supply and demand—before markets once more will be in balance.

Changes that have occurred since the start of the war in relative wage and other production costs, manufacturing processes and consumer preferences may well mean that some of the traditional prewar price relationships never will be restored but that the markets will have to find a new equilibrium. That, food executives pointed out yesterday, will make for a period of flux in many food products lines.

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OPA AID TO STRIKERS? - Editorial - The shipping and truck strikes have combined to create a most acute sugar shortage in the metropolitan area. Supplies are quite scarce also in other cities along the Atlantic seaboard. A measure of relief could be provided, pending a settlement of these labor disputes, by lifting zone restrictions on beet sugar shipments. Were these restrictions terminated, industrial and other large sugar users could secure their requirements in the West, and thus maintain output of bakery products, soft drinks, candy and other important consumer goods.

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CPA OFFICIALS ARE REPORTED INCLINED TO ELIMINATE L-99 - With evidence of the danger to the cotton textile industry inherent in continuation of L-99 growing clearer daily, current indications are that top CPA officials are coming around to the conclusion that it might be preferable to drop all controls rather than make the more modest 50% cut originally proposed by the Industry Advisory Committee.

When the IAC met with Government officials recently the case for halving loom controls was forcefully presented and most members of the industry at the meeting gained the definite impression that CPA officials were inclined to look favorably upon these proposals. Subsequently, however, the production agency was understood to have made some fairly comprehensive checks of inventories at various levels. On the basis of these findings, which largely supported original assertions of the millmen, the Government officials are reported to be leaning towards a complete elimination of loom controls.

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BRITISH MAY BUY FOREIGN YARNS, Liverpool - Pressure for yarn deliveries continues extremely keen, but there is little prospect of any early relief to the position as production is still held down by machinery and labor problems. Several manufacturers are reported to be exploring the possibilities of arranging imports of foreign yarns.

MILL FIXATIONS LIFT PRICES \$7 A BALE - Cotton prices shot upward more than \$7 a bale in an optimistic session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. A strong demand from mills and outside interests met only moderate offerings. The final range was up 117 to 146 points.

Leading factors in the market were the large volume of sales in cotton textiles reported from Worth Street, the announcement by Civilian Production Administrator Small that restrictions would be removed from the cotton textile industry and the expected support of large interests both in the cotton trade and among outside investors.

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GRAINS IRREGULAR IN QUIETER TRADE - There was less activity in grain futures at Chicago during the morning yesterday with many traders on the sidelines awaiting new developments and at noon prices were irregular. Wheat was 1/2¢ higher to 1¢ lower; corn was up 1/8¢ to 5/8¢; oats were 3/8¢ higher to 3/4¢ lower and barley 1¢ lower.

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LUMBER SUPPLY VIEWED ADEQUATE FOR HOUSING, AP, Washington - The Civilian Production Administration said today there will be enough lumber this year to meet estimated requirements of the veterans' housing program and other essential needs. However, the agency added that domestic production and imports will not be sufficient to provide for replenishing of depleted inventories.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 24 -

OPA ALLOWS HIGHER PRICES FOR LOW COST COTTON, RAYON DRESSES - Washington - The OPA yesterday announced plans to raise prices of most lowcost cotton and rayon dresses. Under an order to be issued shortly, manufacturers of these dresses may increase prices of their highest price line up to 75 cents for each of their women's and misses' rayon dresses, up to 25 cents each for teen-age and girls' rayon dresses and up to 25 cents on all cotton dresses.

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YOUR DECONTROLLED BREAD, CAKE OR CANDY BAR WON'T COST ANY MORE TODAY THAN YESTERDAY - A loaf of bread, a slice of cake or a bar of candy won't cost any more today than yesterday. That was the word sent out by leading makers of these items following their removal from price control. Bakers expect to hold their present retail prices, provided raw material costs don't run wild.

For example, Continental Baking Co. does not expect to raise its prices, according to M. Lee Marshall, chairman of the board. While prices of shortening may be higher for a time, he said he could "see no justification for an increase in the price of wheat. "He also expects little change in the price of flour."

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 22 -

TROUBLE LIES AHEAD UNLESS PRICE LIDS ARE LIFTED FOR ALL By Wilbur J. Brons-The economy is again at a danger point. Wage control is a phrase without substance; prices are half controlled and half free. The relationship of one commodity to another, thrown out of kilter by five years of administrative fumbling, is still a hodge-podge of distortion. In short, we now have a hybrid system of controls which is no longer defensible on any grounds that make sense.

The picture threatens to get worse before it gets better. There is widespread confusion as to what items still under ceilings will be among those to be decontrolled within the next few months. Apparently, OPA is reluctant to free automobiles, farm equipment, basic raw materials, furniture, building materials, clothing and many other products.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 21 -

STRAW AND CORNSTALKS CAN BE MADE INTO PAPER-Editorial-Straw and cornstalks can be made into paper. Modern harvesting methods make it possible to gather stalks and straw much more cheaply than could be done formerly. There still remains the difficulty that the materials are available only thru a short harvest season, while paper mills have to be operated the year 'round. This difficulty, however, might be surmounted by the building of small units thru the middle west farming areas that would reduce the stalks and straw to pulp right after the harvest season and ship the pulp, which is far less bulky than the raw materials used, to paper mills for storage until it could be converted into paper.

American newspapers, which show unparalleled enterprise in their news departments if they want to assure themselves of an adequate supply of the raw material on which their existence depends.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 21 -

DEMOCRATS LICK CHIEF ON MEAT ISSUE-Washington (NANA)-President Truman is squarely behind the meatbell today amid the prayerful silence of party Democrats who forced his acceptance of the decontrol program.

Hopeful of both meat and votes, there remains little for the administration to do but lick the wounds resulting from a collapsing wage and price program that was virtually abandoned by the president in his radio address.

Initial reaction among the Democrats is that Truman accepted the blame for the meat scarcity.

Despite the president's attempts to blame "a few men in Congress" for the meat crisis and the failure of the wage-price program, the feeling here generally is that party Democrats, frightened by the anger of potential voters, licked their own chief spokesman in an allout scrap on a major public issue.

Irrespective of who was right or wrong initially, it is conceded, the president risked the party's political future by stubbornly resisting attempts to force reconsideration of meat decontrol. In attempting to place the empty meat platters on the doorstep of Congress, the president, as Republicans were quick to point out, overlooked the fact that his party had control of the legislative body.

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From Antigo Daily Journal, Oct. 19 -

SOUTH GETTING WORRIED-Editorial-The South is getting worried, the prediction having been made that mechanized cotton farming threatens displacement of several million workers in the next ten years. Indications are that much cotton may soon be harvested by mechanical pickers cheaper than it can be picked by hand. Flame throwers for weed control are also expected to cut into cotton field labor.

Mechanization has reduced farm workers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas by 20.5 per cent since 1930, and it is expected they will be cut by 59 per cent by 1950. It is predicted further that 1,600,000 farm workers will have left southern farms between 1940 and 1945, and this figure does not include their families.

Not even the rapid industrialization of the South is expected to take up all this slack, so other important readjustments are necessary, including revolutionary changes in southern agriculture. Still, with all the mechanization in cotton farming the consumer cannot get his needs met even for minimum standards, so perhaps cotton growing and processing can stand some expansion.

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From Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 18 -

UTAH FARMS HELD TOO SMALL FOR LARGE SCALE COMPETITION-Utah farms are too small as economical units to compete with large scale production, L. R. Humphreys, professor of agricultural education, Utah State Agricultural college, told Salt Lake Kiwanis club Thursday.

He explained that many Utah farmers were subsistence farmers, while others were part-time farmers. He suggested twin remedies; one to increase scope of farming by increased irrigation; the other to increase efficiency of farming.

Praising cooperative association work in production and marketing of eggs, celery and turkeys, Prof. Humphreys declared a "change in Utah farming is necessary if Utah is to compete effectively with other states." He pointed out that while Utah's top test cows had achieved a 1945 record of 356 lbs. of butter fat, or third place in the nation, average over the state was only 190 lbs.

"Lands must be leveled, ditches relocated, crop rotation adopted, and fertilizers used to build up the soil," declared the agricultural expert.

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From Kansas City Packer, Oct. 19 -

THE CONTROL FIASCO-Editorial-In our opinion, the President's capitulation to demands for removal of ceilings on meat amounts to an admission that price control since the end of the war has been a failure.

It certainly blows to bits the "short supply" principle, for determining whether a commodity should or should not be subject to price control. Certainly nothing could have been in shorter supply than meat, from the consumer's standpoint. With the ceilings now off meat and livestock, what justification can there be for retaining ceilings on anything else, with the possible exception of rents?

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 25 -

RAW SUGAR CARGOES HERE HELD UP BY THE SHIP STRIKE-Sugar, sugar everywhere, but not a spoonful to put in your coffee.

That was the situation in New York Harbor yesterday. More than 100,000,000 pounds of raw sugar was in ships at local docks, but union officials indicated that there was little likelihood any of it would be unloaded before the maritime strike ended.

Lack of sugar forced the last of the city's four big refineries to cease operating, cutting off a daily flow of nearly 1,000,000 pounds of refined sugar. However, the suspension of sugar refining by the Sucrest Corporation was counterbalanced, at least in part, by the resumption of deliveries by the American Sugar Refining Company, which signed a contract with its striking truck drivers Wednesday.

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FLOUR PRICES SHOOT UPWARD HERE; COSTLIER BREAD AND CAKE PRESAGED-Flour prices shot upward yesterday, foreshadowing higher bread and cake costs as a result of the end of all food price controls except those on sweets and rice.

Heads of two of the largest commercial bakeries in this city said they would not increase prices until they saw where the cost of flour and shortening might level off. They admitted they did not know where that might be or how much prices might go up if flour quotations remained high.

The New Jersey Bakers Board, however, saw \$1 coffee rings and 25-cent bread in the offing and considered a general shutdown of bakeshops to force down flour prices. A spokesman said the shutdown would be discussed at a meeting Monday.

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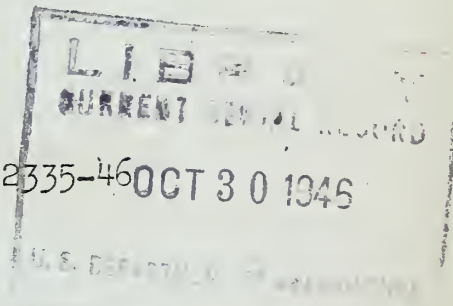
HOLD OUT TRUCKERS DWINDLE AS MORE SIGN BOHACK PACT-A new crop of defections from the ranks of hold out truck operators yesterday brought from related union leaders a prediction that the fifty-four-day-old strike would end within a week.

Largest of the companies to sign new contracts providing a wage increase of 31 cents an hour and all other major features of the Bohack plan was Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Inc., with 120 trucks and 310 drivers, helpers and warehousemen. Other agreements signed here and in Jersey City reduced the original strike total of 15,000 workers to less than 3,000 according to officials of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL.

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(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From New York Times, Oct. 25 -

LIVESTOCK SALES OFF, PRICES UP AT MARTS-Chicago-Livestock receipts generally were down and prices up today as terminal markets throughout the country cleaned up the week long glut of animals which followed removal of price ceilings.

Most embargoes against further receipts had been lifted from markets where they had been in effect and the trade was expecting heavier receipts by next week.

Hog prices were up as much as \$1.50 a hundred pounds in trading at Chicago and from 50 cents to \$1 higher at Omaha, South St. Paul and Indianapolis. Cattle were \$1 higher at St. Louis. At Chicago good and choice steers were \$36 a hundred pounds for top loadlots, or 50 cents below the loadlot record set yesterday. Slaughter lambs were up \$1 to \$1.25 in the late Chicago market.

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COMMITTEE TO NAME MEN IN COTTON DROP-Washington-Senator Elmer Thomas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, promised today that the names of all traders in the cotton market who might have contributed to the sharp drop in cotton prices last week would be made public.

Asked to produce the names, J. M. Mehl, Commodity Exchange Administrator told Mr. Thomas at a committee hearing that he would have to consult his counsel since the law prohibited the CEA from publishing such names. Senator Thomas assured reporters after the session that the names would be made public in one way or another when the investigation was completed.

Other hearing developments were as follows:

1. Assurance by Chairman Thomas of a drive for early legislation either to strengthen the Commodity Exchange Administration's controls over the commodities markets or turn the controls over to the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 2. A statement by Chairman Thomas, that the break in the cotton market was the result of "a political conspiracy."
 3. A demand by J. E. McDonald, State Agriculture Commissioner of Texas, that farmers withhold marketing their cotton until they can get at least 40 cents a pound for it.
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DISCOUNT CPA MOVE TO EASE LEATHER-While the Civilian Production Administration is expected to issue on Monday allocations to tanners permitting purchases of 1,200,000 cattle hides during November, in comparison with 950,000 for October, there is little chance that anything but token shipments, if any, will be made during the month, industry spokesmen said yesterday.

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FLOUR BUYING RUSH FAILS TO DEVELOP-Chicago-Decontrol of prices of wheat flour failed to bring in the large buying orders for that commodity expected by the trade. Large consumers shopped for supplies at the most advantageous price. Brokers estimated that possibly 100,000 sacks of 100 pounds each were purchased but Southwestern mills asked 30 to 50 cents more a sack, and Northwestern mills 50 to 70 cents. This had considerable influence in checking buying. Mills, however, admitted that the sharply higher price asked was an effort to test the market. A few sales were made by Southwestern mills at an advance of 30 cents a hundredweight.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 25 -

GAINS IN GROCERY STAPLES OFFSET BY DECLINE IN MEATS - The first day after removal of virtually all food price decontrols witnessed sharp price increases in a number of foods: notably, flour, canned tomatoes, canned sardines, imported olive oil and cocoa.

On the other hand, wholesale meat prices showed another sharp drop on apparent consumer's resistance to the present high level of meat retail prices--now that the meat supply lines are beginning to fill up.

The Journal of Commerce daily index of sensitive prices rose only fractionally from 260.8 to 261, as those items that registered the sharpest gains yesterday are not reflected in the index with the exception of flour.

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WHEAT PRICES DIP IN GRAIN FUTURES - All grain futures were reactionary at Chicago during morning trading yesterday with wheat pacing the decline, aided by selling through an Eastern house with cash connections.

At noon Chicago time wheat was down 2 to 2-1/2¢; corn was 7/8¢ to 1¢ lower, oats had declined 1/4¢ to 7/8¢ and barley was 1-1/2¢ lower.

Action of the wheat market further indicated that decontrol of flour prices had already been discounted and some selling appeared to have been stimulated by reports that no appreciable volume of flour business had developed following ending of control.

However, there were no indications of any setback in cash wheat prices in the Northwest where they were reported to be unchanged to 2¢ higher.

Cash soy beans, which had staged a very sharp price spurt since removal from price control last week, struck at least a momentary snag, with bids at Chicago off \$3.30 a bushel down about 13¢ from the previous day.

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RICE MARKET - Failure to decontrol rice was explained yesterday in some quarters as due to the necessity of the State Department to complete a deal with Cuba calling for the delivery of 4,000,000 bags from the new crop.

Traders making this statement maintained that the arrangement was reached when the United States and Cuban 1946 sugar pact was arrived at, with Cuba willing to sell sugar to the United States at the stipulated price only providing that this rice be included in the transaction at a set figure.

On spot there is reported considerable activity in the black market and leading mill agents report that while they are receiving only moderate quantities the offerings from these quarters are ample.

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U. S. ORDERS BEETS SHIPPED INTO THIRTEEN EASTERN STATES - It was reported yesterday from Washington that the Department of Agriculture has designated thirteen States in the East as deficit areas and will ship beet sugar supplies into the market here. The Department of Agriculture will subsidize shipment of Western beets into the Eastern markets, paying excess transportation. The designated areas are New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and portions of Tennessee and Kentucky.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) - - -

Farm Digest 2335-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 25 (Cont.) -

TRADE PESSIMISM DEPRESSES COTTON PRICES - Pessimistic predictions of leading cotton economists led to active liquidation by outside interests on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. On the same grounds, the trade seemed to be tardy in making commitments beyond the first of the year. By closing, despite fluctuations in a wide range during the session, cotton prices were down 43 to 66 points.

The pessimism among traders was considered the result of forecasts of the approaching end of the general sellers' market in cotton textiles, according to speakers at the Cotton Textile Institute in New York on Wednesday night. Some of these analysts had predicted a recession in textiles shortly after the first of the year. However, it was pointed out that the expected slump would be met with better preparation and more adaptability in business policy than the similar movement after the previous war.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 25 -

TRUMAN INDICATES CONTROL OF WAGES WILL BE DROPPED SLOWLY AS PRICE DECONTROLS SPREAD - Washington - President Truman indicated that the Administration intends to let its wage controls crumble gradually as its pricing regulations are washed away.

The President lent support to reports that no formal action could be expected to end the Wage Stabilization Board's activities.

In answer to questions at his press conference, the President said the question of dropping controls on wages was covered fully in his speech of last week ordering meat freed from control. At that time the President said:

"We all recognize the close relationship between wages and prices. If either one rises too high, the other is certain to be affected. Price control and wage control are largely dependent upon each other. As we speed up the removal of price controls, the removal of wage controls will also be accelerated. In this way, we shall move steadily--and as quickly as we safely can--toward a free economy and a free collective bargaining."

The Administration drops apart of its wage control every time the Office of Price Administration frees something from price control. This is because W.S.B. exercises only limited authority over wages. These are the major controls which the Wage Stabilization Board maintains over the wage structure: 1. Wages of construction workers are "frozen" except as increases are allowed by the Wage Adjustment Board, a part of WSB. 2. Wage increases granted by employers, other than in building, must be approved by WSB only if the pay hikes are to be used as the basis for seeking ceiling price increases from OPA. 3. Wage decreases below a certain base must be approved by WSB.

Representatives of both industry and labor have expressed opposition to the wage controls. Both industry members of the WSB have submitted their resignations to President Truman but have continued to participate in board activities until he acts upon their resignations. Since then, both members--Colman Barrett and Earl Cannon--have called upon the Administration to end all wage controls and this week specifically attacked maintaining authority over wage increases.

The construction industry is the only one in which wages have remained "frozen" since the end of the war. Except where board authorization has been given, construction wages cannot be changed from the area rate established in October 3, 1942. The board, in general, has allowed increases not to exceed 37.5¢ an hour over the 1941 hourly rates. With both residential and non-residential building still under strict Government regulation, and with Housing Expediter Wyatt anxious to retain pricing and allocation controls over building materials, the Administration is expected to keep a tight grip on construction worker wages as long as possible.

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Farm Digest 2335-46

From Kansas City Times, Oct. 22 -

A FARM-BUSINESS TIE-The farmer and the businessman must never be allowed to forget the dependence each places on the other, J. L. McCaffrey, president of the International Harvester company, told the Future Farmer delegates at their victory convention yesterday.

As the principal speaker on the afternoon convention program in the Arena of the Municipal Auditorium, McCaffrey emphasized that the men who work the soil have a vital stake in the factories and commercial buildings of the city. Just as vital is the stake of the urban resident in the sound conduct of the affairs of agriculture.

Industry is constantly on the alert for the development of new uses for farm products, the industrial leader pointed out. Primarily it is concerned with the preservation and the efficient use of the soil, because every individual in the nation depends on farm production. But going hand in hand with it, he said, was the intelligent application of agricultural products to uses which can mean a better standard of living for persons in all lines of living for persons in all lines of endeavor.

McCaffrey stressed that under the guidance of the National Farm Chemurgic council those new uses were constantly being discovered and developed.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Oct. 22 -

COTTON SHAKE-OUT-Editorial-After the flurry in cotton, marked by a temporary suspension of future trading, the market was back to normal routine Monday, with all exchanges doing business. If some speculative elements lost a fortune in the shake-out, that was offset by the profit advantages accrued to the other side. The seven cents a pound decline over the period of the slump took an enormous slice out of the value of the crop, but around 32 cents a pound the market is still five to six cents a pound higher than it was when the seed was put in the ground last spring.

Partisans like Senator Thomas of Oklahoma have yelled "conspiracy" to beat the price of cotton down, but no informed person expects the investigation now under way to show anything of the sort. Perhaps the worst enemies of any stability in the market are the people like Senator Thomas who have been talking 50- and 60-cent cotton in face of the very fact that wholesale textile prices, firmly tied to the price of cotton by the price control act, already had reached a level of 150 per cent above that existing at the outbreak of the war.

When prices begin to get out of reach of a large part of the consuming public, even short supplies and small crops cannot sustain them. The very fact that the break came on the heels of the president's announcement of the price decontrol program, which the trade assumed would apply to textiles, seemed to be evidence that any artificial price factors had been operating in favor of higher cotton rather than the opposite.

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From Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 21.-

AFTER THE WASTAGE OF WAR-Editorial-The sessions of the American Forest Congress at Washington bring into timely focus an issue which the war had pushed to one side: conservation of national resources. Conservation has never ceased to be of vital importance. But it is of especially urgent concern right now.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, in his address to the gathering, gives one reason. The exhaustion of American forests, he says, is no longer a threat of the future. It exists today. And the same might be said in varying degrees of other natural resources.

War is the great waster. Not only lumber, but also oil, metals, top soil (through extensive and intensive farming), and other national wealth were used as needed, without stint. They had to be, or Americans might not now be free to husband what was left. But Americans can concern themselves again about conservation, and it is time they did.

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From Kansas City Star, Oct. 21 -

BEEF AND PORK STILL FAVORITES-Editorial-The uncapping of meat controls and the imminent return of beef and pork in enough quantities to go around may have checked a revolution in the nation's eating habits. Indeed, the first low murmur of revolt was beginning to roll over the land.

In Minnesota there were reports of buffalo meat for sale--at prices that read like a bank statement. Venison was being marketed in Colorado while some Wisconsin residents were said to be giving bear flesh a brave but dubious try. The question of whether horse meat was a proper food for human consumption was at the verge of becoming a national issue. In meat-shy New York and some of the Eastern states the coiling removal order let the air out of a full-blown controversy on the horse-steak question.

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From San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 17 -

HOW TO BEAT INFLATION-Let's cut through the welter of political name-calling which has come on the heels of the decontrol of meat, and apply some common sense to the business of rising meat prices.

That they're rising is undeniable. That the abruptness of the rise results directly from decontrol is likewise obvious. It's a little less obvious, but just as true, that the choice between decontrol now and decontrol later was not a choice between inflation and non-inflation, but a choice between inflation now and inflation, at a higher price level, later on.

There were two main troubles with the policy of Governmental control of meat prices:

1. It failed to prevent the rise of meat prices.
2. It made meat scarce, by placing arbitrary obstacles in the way of meat production.

Continued control of meat would never have produced an abundance of meat, and as long as the meat famine persisted, the very scarcity would have continued the upward price trend (or else, by eliminating meat entirely, made the price strictly academic).

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 28 -

SHIP MOVEMENTS LIKELY HERE TODAY TALKS SET IN WEST-Waterborne commerce in Atlantic and Gulf ports, shackled for almost a month by a strike of maritime workers, is expected to revive slowly beginning today.

Although the twenty seven day walkout described as the costliest in the nation's shipping history, technically is still in effect, a union official predicted last night that picket lines would be withdrawn starting at noon today.

Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL, which respected picket lines during the walk today "wherever there's steam up."

He said he anticipated "many cases" in which vessels would be worked during the day.

Capt. William C. Ash, co-chairman of the negotiating committee for the National Organization of Masters and Pilots, AFL, declared that 95 percent of the union membership would vote in favor of the agreement reached Saturday between his group and Atlantic and Gulf Coast operators and agents.

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TRUCKER CAPITULATION TODAY SEEN; NORMAL CRACKER SUPPLY IS IN SIGHT-Relief from the city's acute cracker shortage was in sight last night as the solid front of employer resistance to truck drivers' wage demands continued to crumble.

With sugar, milk containers and chain store supplies already removed from the list of strike bound commodities, resumption of biscuit deliveries would restore the food supply to full normal variety for the first time since Sept. 1.

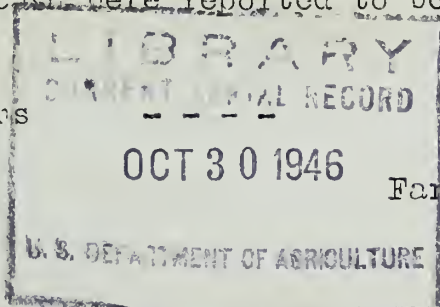
Expecting virtually complete capitulation on the part of the remaining hold-outs in the trucking industry today, business leaders predicted a rapid revival in all branches of commercial activity during November.

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FARMERS IN SOUTH WITHHOLD COTTON-New Orleans-The flow of cotton to market has subsided to a mere trickle in most parts of the South since the recent drastic price break in futures on the cotton exchanges. Farmers are holding on to the staple in hopes of a rebound on the exchange boards.

The withholding movement is apparent everywhere in the belt, a survey showed today, although the degree of the selling slack varies somewhat. Sales are down to 10 percent of normal in several areas. In some places only farmers in need of immediate cash were reported to be disposing of their product.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)



Farm Digest 2355 -46

From New York Times, Oct. 28 -

HUGE GRAIN CROP HELPS FEED WORLD-Chicago-Although there were minor spurt of liquidation by holders of grain futures on the Board of Trade last week, prices failed to get more than a small fraction of a cent below the finish of the previous week. The selling, which followed announcement of decontrol of a long list of foodstuffs, seemed to have run its course the week before, and even a return of weakness in cotton late in the week failed to carry the grain markets off to any great extent.

Oats, the most active grain, had a range of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$ cents a bushel for the week, while wheat covered a range of $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and corn, around 5 cents. Short covering was a big factor in causing an advance early in the week.

Removal of price ceilings of wheat flour failed to bring in the anticipated demand, mills lifting asking prices 30 to 70 cents per 100 pound sack with the result that large buyers, who were clamoring for supplies recently, started to shop around and comparatively little business was placed.

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SAYS BRITISH WANT AMERICAN FOODS-The British people are getting tired of their "austerity" program to stimulate exports and are anxious to get all the American-made merchandise possible, Frederick C. Guildford, managing director of the newly formed British subsidiary of L. E. Waterman Company stated over the weekend. American manufacturers, however, are making a poor showing in merchandising their goods abroad, he said.

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STRACHEY RESOLVED TO KEEP FOOD CURBS-London-Speaking in Dundee today, Food Minister John Strachey warned Britons that he wasn't going to free any particular foodstuffs from rationing until supplies were as much as 30 or 40 percent above the pre war level. He reiterated his determination not to free bread, blaming the bad harvest here and the American strikes that have hampered the transportation of American and Canadian wheat.

Mr. Strachey said that those who had lived on the dole or on very low wages before the war were now eating a great deal more meat, butter, fats and margarine than they did then. Those people would again go hungry if rations and price controls were abolished, he said.

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TRADE CIRCLES HAIL PARLEY ON OUTPUT-The action of the Government in calling a Conference on Productivity in Washington today and tomorrow, to which both labor and management have been invited, has been welcomed in business and industrial circles.

This is true not only because of the intrinsic current importance of the subject but also because reliable and comprehensive data measuring changes in output per man hour and unit labor cost for manufacturing as a whole have not been available since 1939.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 28 -

COMMODITY PEAK SEEN REACHED WITH CONTINUED FARM DECLINES OFFSETTING INDUSTRIAL PRICE RISES - The wholesale commodity price level may already have passed its immediate postwar peak, at least as far as basic raw and semi-processed materials are concerned, an analysis of recent price trends indicates.

There will, of course, be further upward revisions in individual commodity fields during the next few months. But unless OPA changes its mind about the tempo of decontrol as far as scarce industrial materials are concerned and lifts these ceilings all at once, downward revisions in agricultural price groups should be sufficient from now on to offset further advances in individual industrial price groups.

Should OPA take industry's advice and speed up decontrol of scarce items--in order to provide added production incentives where they are needed most--some of the major industrial commodity groups no doubt would score pronounced initial advances. This would go especially for hides and leather, non-ferrous metals, building materials, and some chemical subdivisions.

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BROADER OPA PLAN ADJUSTS DECONTROL TO INCOME GROUPS - Washington - With the Office of Price Administration's second sweeping decontrol action scheduled to take place by the end of this week, adoption of a new and liberalized definition of a product's "importance" will result in the removal of still more price ceilings than originally contemplated, it was learned today.

When President Truman ordered "accelerated decontrol" in his meat speech OPA officials decided that all commodities "not important in relation to business costs or living costs" should be decontrolled early in November, rather than on December 31, the deadline provided in the Price Control Extension Act.

Commodities considered "not important" will comprise the bulk of products to be decontrolled when OPA follows its food decontrol action of last week with issuance of its "master list of controlled commodities," which is now slated for November 1 issuance. A much smaller number of products will be decontrolled in this overall action on the basis that supply and demand are in balance, or for "discretionary" reasons.

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PURCHASERS SEE RESISTANCE TO RISING PRICES GROWING - "Buying at any price, to keep a plant running, may be approaching an end."

This is the most significant observation in this month's report by the Business Survey Committee of the National Association of Purchasing Agents.

It means that we may be approaching something like an "industrial buyers' strike"--reflecting, of course, the widespread belief among business men that we may be in for a period of lower business activity when supplies are catching up with demand in a growing number of industrial fields, thus signaling the accomplished turn from sellers' to buyers' markets.

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US SET TO URGE WORLD PACTS, NOT FOOD BOARD, ON FAO - Washington - The United States Government will advocate the negotiation of international commodity agreements as a substitute for a World Food Board and buffer stockpiling, proposed by Sir John Boyd Orr, when sessions sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization open here tomorrow. The United States will take the position that application of the Orr plan would necessitate quantitative controls, such as quotas, to make it work, and it is the view of the United States Government that such controls are undesirable as permanent devices.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 28 (Cont.) -

IS THE PRICE PEAK NEAR? - Editorial - The general relaxation of price controls this month has lifted the level of wholesale commodity prices to the highest point reached since 1920. The rise in prices since the end of World War II is now comparable to that which took place between the 1918 Armistice and the peak reached in the late spring of 1920.

Now that wartime controls have been largely liquidated and reports are heard of growing consumer resistance to higher prices, are we to assume the current rise is near its peak? There is good reason to believe that this is so in agricultural prices. The reaction in the raw cotton market, the decline in live stock quotations as receipts have increased and the declining trend in prices of butter and some other foods point to this conclusion. Only in the case of processed foods are some further advances indicated.

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY FACES NEW ROUND OF HIGHER WAGE DEMANDS - Textile union leaders reportedly held a regional meeting in Boston yesterday to formulate new wage demands that will be presented to cotton mills in a reopening of present contracts. A similar meeting will be held next week to decide upon a program of demands that will be presented to woolen and worsted mills.

This is the most important immediate problem facing the textile industry. It transcends the question of whether OPA or CPA will shortly remove controls, or whether we are passing from a seller's to a buyer's market.

The reason for this is that any further wage increases that are wrested from the mills stand a better than even chance of being met entirely out of company earnings. The day is past, in the opinion of many mill operators, when increases can be handed along to the public in the form of higher cloth prices. It even is doubtful that the Government will countenance such a procedure if ceilings still are in effect. Mills were allowed only 5¢ of the latest 8¢ wage advance in their ceiling adjustments, it will be recalled.

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COTTON DROPS SPURS SELLING OF FINISHED GOODS MARKET - The sharp dropping off in cotton prices of the past ten days has had two direct effects on the finished market, which were shaping up very clearly at the week-end. These were:

1. Sales of mill-finished staples were made for much longer periods than had originally been intended by many sellers because of their ability to cover adequately on cotton replacement costs.

2. Extremely substantial quantities of cheaper, inferior converted cottons were being offered for delivery ranging from spot to well into 1947, but not finding too many takers. Staple types of converted goods were being largely withheld or offered only in very limited quantities.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 28 -

LAGUARDIA WARNS U.N. RELIEF FOOD MUST GO TO WAR TORN NATIONS AGAIN IN 1947 - Director General LaGuardia of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration made this prediction in his report to the General Assembly of U.N. No nation now getting UNRRA aid will be self-sufficient in foods next year, he said. With one or two exceptions, he added, none will have enough foreign exchange to buy both food and the industrial raw materials needed. Mr. LaGuardia made no specific recommendations of what should be done when his agency is terminated at the end of 1946

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From Kansas City Star, Oct. 21 -

MEAT AND CATTLE TO "LEVEL OFF"-Sam R. McKelvie, Ex-governor of Nebraska and former Hoover farm board member, today discussed ranch and range conditions at the American Royal.

The man on the federal farm board of 1929-31 said the Hoover group "thought it had gone the limit in spending government money, but, looking at it today, I can see it was just pin money."

Asked what he thought of recent government policies, the 1929-31 Republican governor declared "the less said the better."

But the man who publishes the twice-a-month Nebraska Farmer in Lincoln and operates the By-the-Way ranch at Valentine, toward the sand hill region was positive the price of meat and cattle now would "level off."

"We will gain a wholesome equilibrium in three or four months," he said, "with an even price range, based on a reasonable margin of profit for every branch of the industry--and plenty of meat for the public."

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From Baltimore Sun, Oct. 25 -

BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE COMING OF BEET SUGAR-Editorial-The news is that Eastern cities are to receive some Western beet sugar in the near future so as to relieve the current famine. The decision, just announced by the Secretary of Agriculture, has an interesting background.

The sugar has been out there all the time. But the OPA refused to let it come East. A spokesman for the outfit said that the ruling was based on the belief that letting the East get sugar might be construed as an effort to break the maritime strike, the main cause of our Eastern lack.

The position does not hold water. Certainly bringing in Western sugar by rail will not benefit the shipowners, who profit out of hauling imported sugar. It will not benefit the sugar refineries who process that imported sugar. As a matter of fact, the transportation to these parts of Western sugar will only harm these interests. It will advantage the strikers to the same extent, for the public resentment against them is largely based on the fact that they have produced a sugar famine.

Query: What kind of mind in the OPA thought up this nonsense? Fortunately, the Secretary of Agriculture saw it was nonsense and ignored it.

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Oct. 22 -

UP TO PAPA, TOO-Editorial-A great deal has been said here lately about how it was incumbent on Mama to help control meat prices by shopping around and refusing to pay outrageous prices. A good deal of the responsibility rests on Papa and the boys, as a matter of actual fact. Mama is naturally thrifty as a rule and has a deep-seated aversion to being held up anywhere, but she is going to have a hard time following her natural instincts about meat if the menfolk in the family start bawling for it whether or no. If we held out during the meat famine, we can hold out a little longer to the extent of buying only when and where the charges are within reason, but it is up to Papa, too.

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From Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 22 -

SEES CHICKEN SUPPLY STABLE-The amount of chicken on America's dinner tables will stay at its wartime level for another year, Leo Baumgartner, Litchfield, Minn., vice-president of the International Baby Chick association, said Tuesday.

Speaking at a joint convention of the Wisconsin Hatcheries association and the Wisconsin Poultry Improvement association, Baumgartner said that the state's poultrymen must keep their production at top speed if the nation is going to be fed properly. The industry responded during the war, he said, and it must continue to do so now.

"We will never get down to our prewar production, I'm sure," Baumgartner emphasized. "Not only has the population of the United States continued to grow, but people have become more familiar with poultry products. Egg consumption has increased almost 25% above normal."

The feed shortage in the south and along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts has cut poultry production this year 8 to 10% below last year's peak, Baumgartner said. It will probably remain down in those areas, but increased production elsewhere is possible, he added.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 22 -

SUGAR RATIONING-Editorial-Preliminary results of a testing of their customers' opinion have brought food retailers to the conclusion that they have public opinion behind their demand for an end of sugar rationing. The serious question, however, is not whether consumers want sugar rationing to end but whether the supply of sugar will be adequate to permit that step.

Premature abandonment of sugar rationing would only result in something worse than the inconvenience of controls. The same people who dislike rationing would protest even more strongly against getting no sugar at all.

Official and unofficial forecasts are for continuance of a sugar shortage for another year. Without rationing, this would mean the inequitable distribution of available sugar, with domestic users probably coming out badly in competition with large industrial consumers.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Oct. 24 -

INFLATION?-Editorial-Look at the price of meat these days, say the Democrats, and see in them the determination of the wicked Republicans to bring about an inflation in this country.

Perhaps it is a sufficient answer to say that anybody these days can look not only at the price of meat but at the meat itself. Meat is available again only because the price controls which were voted for overwhelmingly by the Democrats in congress last spring and summer were abandoned. The Republicans foresaw what was going to happen and voted their conviction, but there weren't enough of them in congress to make their view prevail. The question to be decided by the voters on Nov. 5 is the simple one: Do you want the Democrats again to dominate congress so that price controls can be restored and shortages intensified?

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From The New York Times, Oct. 29 -

SHIP, TRUCK PACTS END LONG BLOCKADE OF CITY COMMERCE-The worst transportation blockade in the city's history was lifted yesterday with simultaneous termination of the truck and maritime strikes.

In the trucking dispute, which has dammed up the flow of commerce in the metropolitan area for fifty eight days, hold out employers disbanded their joint wage scale committee and flocked to sign individual union agreements granting their drivers a 31-cent hourly pay increase and a forty-hour week.

Waterfront picket lines were withdrawn at most Atlantic and Gulf coast piers after striking deck officers had voted by a margin of four to one to ratify an agreement with ship operators. Stevedores began unloading millions of pounds of sugar and other cargo that had been tied up for four weeks.

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MEAT PRICES IN SHOPS REMAIN HIGH; BIG SUPPLY CUTS WHOLESALE LEVEL-Supplies of meat were heavy enough yesterday to depress some wholesale prices 2 to 6 cents a pound, but the housewife had to pay the same high prices as last week in most of the retail shops of this city. Consumer resistance continued, with a resultant growth of the stockpile of unsold meat.

Markets Commissioner Eugene G. Schulz reported that a spot check of 250 retail stores showed meat prices at the same level generally as last Thursday and Friday, when they averaged 40 percent above former ceiling prices. Porterhouse steak had dropped 1 cent a pound over the weekend. But sirloin had gone up 1 cent. Pork loin roast had risen 15 cents a pound since last week and pork chops 10 cents, but lamb shoulder chops had come down 6 cents.

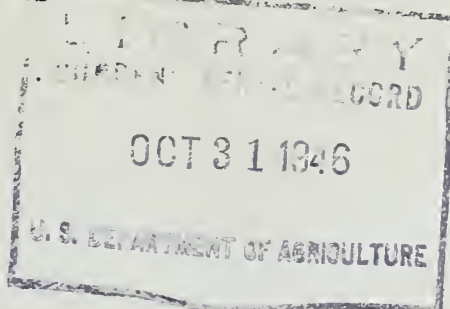
It was made clear by Commissioner Schulz that these comparisons were based on the most general prices for the various kinds of meat and that there was a wide price spread on the same item in different shops. The rates varied among individual butchers according to their sources of supply and the willingness of shoppers to pay the prices.

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TEXTILES, PEPPER FREED OF CONTROL-Washington-The momentum of decontrol was maintained today by Government agencies which removed wartime restrictions on some textile and household items, on the importation of some spices, including pepper, and on the styling of women's clothes.

In an order effective immediately, the Office of Price Administration ended price controls on a number of fabric odds and ends.

(Turn to page 2 for other items in today's N.Y. Times.)



Farm Digest 2355-46

From New York Times, OCT. 29 -

U. S. WITHDRAWS FOOD PLAN BACKING-Washington-The United States, in an abrupt but not unforeseen reversal of policy, withdrew its endorsement of a world food board today.

Departing sharply from the line taken at the Copenhagen conference last month, Norris E. Dodd, Under-Secretary of Agriculture, told a commission of sixteen nations drawing up detailed plans for a world food and price stabilization program that this Government could not support proposals now under consideration. The American opposition to "a World Food Board, or any similar device," came promptly at the opening of discussions by the special commission on world food proposals established by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

Mr. Dodd's statement before the commission today is known to reflect the State Department's position rather than his own department's.

The State Department's view was evident in the early sessions of the Copenhagen conference, but eventually the Department of Agriculture prevailed, and Mr. Dodd, under instructions from Washington was able to pledge the wholehearted support of this country to the FAO's world food program. The FAO's proposals are so largely the work of its Director General, Sir John Boyd Orr, that they have come to be known as the Orr Plan.

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COTTON PRICES GO INTO A NEW SLUMP-Renewed heavy liquidation through commission houses, combined with persistent hedge selling, drove cotton futures yesterday down the maximum permissible daily loss of 200 points, or \$10 a bale, and left the market at the lowest levels of the current movement. All active contracts on the New York Cotton Exchange, except the March, 1948, delivery, sustained the allowable decline.

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WHEAT MOVES UP BUT RYE DECLINES-Chicago-The grain markets here largely ignored today weakness in the cotton market for the first time in two weeks.

Wheat rallied about 3 cents from the early low to close 1 3/4 to 2 cents a bushel higher. Corn, after being off 1 7/8 cents, finished at a loss of 1/8 to 1/4 cent despite a break of 5 to 15 cents in the cash market. This carried high moisture sample grade yellow down to \$1 a bushel, the lowest price since last spring.

Oats showed independent strength early and gained 5/8 cent to 1 3/4 cents, November leading. Barley was unchanged.

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MOVES TO CURTAIL LOOM FREEZE PLAN-Washington-The Civilian Production Administration reported today that it was taking steps "to curtail" its loom freeze regulation, Order L-99.

Although no indication was given as to extent of the curtailment, John D. Snell, CPA Administrator, was said to prefer elimination of the order in "two bites" with retention of specific restrictions on urgently needed fabrics, such as combed broadcloth, class C sheeting under 42 inches or plain printcloth. Officials maintained, however, that complete revocation of the order was not outside the realm of possibility.

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Farm Digest 2355-46-2

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 29 -

PRICE PRESSURE PERSISTS IN GRAINS, COTTONS, MEATS - Leading commodity markets again were under pressure yesterday.

As a result, The Journal of Commerce daily index of 30 sensitive commodity prices dropped sharply, declining 6 points to 253.2.

Cotton and wholesale meats lead the decline. Spot cotton fell further, losing an average of 204 points in the ten principal markets.

Wholesale meat prices showed weakness, with beef down \$2 and pork down \$5 a hundred pounds. Reports from major cities indicate that the retail prices of all meats are on the decline as consumer resistance is stiffening and competition developing between chains and independents.

Tempering the wholesale meat price declines was the steadiness in the primary live stock markets. Despite large receipts at Chicago, cattle prices were firm and hogs scored gains of 75¢ to \$1.

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STILL NO SOAP; FAT STAYS ON MEAT - Despite optimistic reports following the decontrol of live stock, soap makers said yesterday they are getting less raw materials now than when ceilings were in effect.

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SUGAR SHORTAGE CURBS DRUG OUTPUT - The shipping and trucking strikes coupled with the long-standing nationwide sugar shortage have forced a curtailment in the production of many standard drug products, officials of more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies reported over the week-end.

Many items, such as cough syrups, tablets, lozenges and other products with a sugar base, are already out of stock, wholesalers report, with still others becoming increasingly scarce.

Sugar was under Government allocation throughout the war and pharmaceutical companies have been operating at quotas set at 120 percent above 1941 supplies. The majority of industry men report that it is almost impossible to obtain enough sugar in spite of these restricting quotas..

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NAVAL STORES - Demand for turpentine continues heavy, with supplies extremely tight. Even small quantities are reported difficult to get. Industry sources in New York report that rosin demands have tapered off slightly, but there is still considerable activity. High grades are in fair supply. Medium and low grades are scarce. Prices remain essentially unchanged.

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CORN PRODUCTS REVEALS NEW SOURCE FOR STARCH, DEXTROSE - Corn Products Refining Co. yesterday announced successful completion of experiments to develop an efficient process for the manufacture of starch and dextrose sugar from a heretofore relatively unknown grain, milo maize. In co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Corn Products has been experimenting with milo maize at its Pekin, Ill., and Kansas City, Mo., plants for the past several years, the company revealed. These experiments, it was said, have proven successful and have shown conclusively that starches and dextrose sugar of excellent quality can be made from milo maize. As a result, the company is proceeding in Texas with its program of providing a new commercial outlet for this important grain crop and will erect a new plant to cost approximately \$10,000,000 in the Texas Gulf Coast area as soon as CPA applications are approved.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 29 (Cont.) -

UNLOADING SUGAR FROM SHIPS HERE - Within 48 hours it is expected that the first of the 130,000 tons of raw sugar which had been tied up in New York and other ports of the nation by the ship strike which was settled over the week-end will begin to move in refined sugar form into consuming channels.

Unloading of raws started yesterday but not until today will it be under way in full swing.

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COFFEE FUTURES CONTINUE LOWER - In the first six days since trading was resumed coffee futures in the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange have declined 3¢ a pound, or 975 per contract.

The March position which opened on Oct. 21 at 25¢ a pound closed yesterday at 22¢ a pound.

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SPOT DRIED FRUIT TRADE IRREGULAR - Aside from the tight supply situation existing in raisins and prunes, and the broad demand for these products on the spot, the market for dried fruit generally lacked special feature as the week opened, and for the most part prices were unchanged.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 29 -

LUMBER PILES UP BEHIND OPA'S PRICE CEILING BARRIER - With builders and furniture makers scouring the country for dry lumber, dealers claim that mills are well-stocked with seasoned wood. Mills lay the blame squarely on OPA. Many admit they plan to hold on to their stocks until price controls are dropped.

Figures on production and shipments give some idea what's happening. In the week ending October 19, mills ground out lumber at a rate 64% above a year ago. But shipments were 14% below production.

- - -

DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE SCARCE THROUGH 1947 - There just won't be enough milk to go around. Farmers will be asked by the Agriculture Department to coax some 120 billion pounds of the basic dairy fluid from their cows next year. But privately the Government experts doubt that production will top 117 billion pounds. And dairy experts see a consumer demand for 125 billion.

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FATS AND OILS USERS ARE POUNDED BY DEVASTATING MATERIALS COSTS. The list of industrial leaning heavily on oils is a long one. It includes makers of paint, linoleum, soap, margarine, candy, and salad dressings. Bakeries are big users. Flaxseed, source of linseed oil, brings up to \$7 a bushel; it sold as low as \$1.44 in prewar 1939. Soybeans which brought 80 cents a bushel at the 1939 low now sell for \$3.40. Lard selling at around 7 cents a pound in 1939 is now priced at 40 cents to 50 cents. Cottonseed sold for as little as \$16.25 a ton in 1939; the present price is \$100. These gains are drastically sharper than since-1939 jumps in commodity prices generally. The Bureau of Labor Statistics all-commodity price index has climbed 75% since 1939.

* * *

Farm Digest 2355-46-4

From New York Times, Oct. 27 -

NATIONAL REPORT, Central States, -Buyers' Strikes Force Cuts In Prices On Big Scale, Chicago - Amid reports from across the country of spiraling costs of living, evidence mounted this week of a growing determination among Central Western householders and other consumers to resist inflationary prices in general, but particularly those on meat and other dining-table commodities.

In Chicago and Madison, Wis., the buying public displayed its indignation through boycotts, picketing and programs to keep retailers' prices at a minimum.

The effectiveness of a general buyers strike was demonstrated here on Thursday at the two South Side markets of Sidney A. Alexander, who reported that 75 percent of his customers stopped buying while his meat counters were full of choice cuts.

"This situation is general all over Chicago," Mr. Alexander said.

A leader in the movement to mobilize housewives and others in protest against rising food costs is the Chicago Committee for Price and Rent Control, which assertedly represents seventy-two organizations with a membership of 2,000,000 persons.

In Wisconsin the Madison Consumers Committee, including many former GI students of the University of Wisconsin, announced plans for a buyers' strike against high-priced meat, dairy products and inflationary charges generally.

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THE LARGER LOAF-Editorial-The trend against wartime controls, together with some improvement in the world food situation, has led the Department of Agriculture to drop its order of last June reducing the size of bread and rolls by 10 per cent. Since bread was never rationed the main effect of this cut was psychological. Perhaps we ate less bread because of it and perhaps we will eat more now. But in spite of bumper crops this year we do need to remember that a world food crisis may return next year. The best the experts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization have been able to predict is that "despite the recent improvement in crop prospects in certain countries there will remain a serious gap between export supplies and import needs of bread and other grains, as well as continuing shortages of fats, meat, sugar and other essential foods." This opinion was endorsed at FAO's recent Copenhagen conference.

It has been said that the best way to save cereals is to eat them. The truth behind this axiom is it is more economical to eat cereals than to feed them to animals and so turn them into meat. In this country there will be great temptation from now on to turn them into meat—an even greater temptation, because of higher meat prices, than there was last year and earlier this year. There would be a natural opposition to renewed controls to check this tendency. Yet it is one which will have to be watched and in some way guarded against. Otherwise we may at some date in 1947 be appealed to by people for cereals we no longer have. We might even be responsible in this fashion for preventable and widespread deaths.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 23 -

DEMURRAGE LOSSES-Editorial-Eastern merchants and manufacturers have petitioned for relief from the demurrage charges accruing on railroad cars which cannot be unloaded promptly on account of strikes. It places an unfair additional burden on them through no fault of their own, the Commerce and Industry association pleads.

While the complaint has a certain degree of plausibility, it is likely to fall flat in this part of the country. For months now the Northwest has suffered from a dearth of grain cars, and to that there is now added a shortage of stock cars, too many of which have been diverted to serve eastern black markets.

Empty cars now available to Northwest railroads are only a fraction of the number they own. The unbalance should be corrected, now that the peak of the livestock and grain shipping season has arrived. The Northwest would be very apt to resent any lifting of the demurrage penalties which are the principal deterrent upon hoarders of rolling stock. It may be true that demurrage losses are an undeserved burden upon strikebound concerns in the East, but Northwest farmers and shippers, too, are sustaining undeserved losses through the withholding of freight cars that belong in this territory.

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From Kansas City Times, Oct. 23 -

OIL MAN'S 3,500 ACRE RANCH THE SITE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-Tom Slick, Jr., 30, millionaire oil man and cattle breeder, yesterday told of a scientific dream he is realizing on his 3,500 acre Essar ranch west of San Antonio.

A start has been made on establishing the Foundation of Applied Research there, a center where outstanding scientists will gather for experiments in annual husbandry, biology and chemistry. One laboratory already is in operation with \$500,000 in oil land designated for the foundation's support. Slick's purpose is to develop a research foundation for public service.

A Yale graduate of 1938, majoring in general science, and a Phi Beta Kappa there, Slick is director of the foundation. Dr. Gregory Pincus, Worcester, Mass., nationally known for scientific research, is lining up scientists for the experiment center, Slick said.

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From St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 24 -

MEAT CRISIS PLOT OF 'LEFT-WINGERS,' SAYS G.O.P. PAPER-Washington-The recent meat crisis has been attributed to numerous conflicting factors, but it took the current issue of the Republican News, official publication of the Republican National Committee, to expose the "real" cause.

It was, says the committee, a diabolical plan of "left-wingers" in Washington to "nationalize the meat industry and operate it as a government monopoly."

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(The newspapers ~~and magazines~~ from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 30 -

BRITAIN JOINS U.S. AGAINST FOOD PLAN-Washington-The United Kingdom today followed the United States in rejecting the world food board proposed by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

The British opposition was the second severe blow to the FAO projects in two days. Norris E. Dodd, Under-Secretary of Agriculture, heading the United States delegation to the FAO Preparatory Committee meeting here to draw up a detailed world food plan, Monday completely withdrew the support of this country from the program it had "wholeheartedly" endorsed in Copenhagen, Denmark, last month.

Except for the disavowal of the FAO proposals, however, there was little similarity in the British and American positions.

The British put forth a number of alternative recommendations for achieving the twin FAO objectives of improving production and distribution of foodstuffs, and stabilizing their prices on the world market; many of them in fact are pieces of the FAO plan. The United States on the other hand, rejected the Copenhagen program without offering further suggestions.

The failure of the two most powerful members of the FAO to support the organization's proposal for a world food board and international price stabilization machinery was a shock to most FAO officials and many of the fourteen nations represented at this conference.

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FARM GROUP CALLS FOR POLICY CHANGE-Washington-The National Farmers Union, accusing the Department of Agriculture of returning to "scarcity economics," called today for an overhaul of the country's farm policies and programs.

James G. Patton, president in a prepared statement specifically criticized the department's recent reduction of potato planting quotas, which was ordered to prevent a surplus.

"What is happening," he asserted, "is a clear warning of the need not only for a housecleaning in the Department of Agriculture but also for some hard thinking by members of Congress on price and production policies for agriculture."

Mr. Patton said the department's action was in violation of the spirit of the Steagall Amendment to the Price Control Act of 1942, under which the Government must support the prices of farm products at 92½ to 95 percent of parity. Cutting production of a crop without substituting other needed crops serves to reduce farmers' income, a result the Steagall Amendment sought to avoid he said.

(Turn to page 2 for other items
in today's N.Y. Times.)

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From The New York Times, Oct. 30 -

MEAT PRICES DROP, RICE NOW PROBLEM-Several retail meat prices dropped yesterday 2 to 14 cents a pound in the first board decline since costs reached record high levels after the end of meat controls two weeks ago.

Another worry confronted the housewife, however, as the Office of Price Administration admitted that one fifth of all the rice being sold here was in the black market at double the price ceiling price.

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DECONTROL BOARD WEIGHS ITS FUTURE-Washington-The Price Decontrol Board its hands empty at present and prospects doubtful of any work turning up, will meet Wednesday to ponder its future.

The three member agency, established by Congress to speed up the liquidation of price control with veto powers over the Office of Price Administration and the Department of Agriculture as its weapon, has been beaten to the draw by OPA.

In consequence of President Truman's removal of meat prices from regulation and his accompanying order for an acceleration of decontrol actions, the OPA has exempted so many prices from control that not a single decontrol petition has yet been appealed to the board.

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BRITISH ASK NATIONS TO ACT QUICKLY TO BAR WORLD COLLAPSE OF PRICES-London-The British are urging the preparatory committee of the international conference on trade and employment, meeting here, to approve the prompt negotiation of international commodity agreements to forestall a fall in world prices, it was learned today.

The recent crack of American cotton prices and the fears of a recurrence of the 1920-21 price break lead many delegates to give special attention to this problem just now. Another factor is the belief that it will be at least a year before the whole elaborate structure of the International Trade Organization can be put together.

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SHOE DECONTROL URGED ON TRUMAN-Chicago-Threat of a grave shortage of leather shoes within a few weeks today brought a plea from the Popular Price Shoe Retailers Association that hides, leather and shoes be immediately decontrolled.

Edward Atkins, executive secretary of the association, said, following a meeting of the group here at the National Boot Fair, that the impending shortage applies particularly to footwear for men and children. The situation is a result of an "almost total freeze up of hide and leather shipments," he added.

The association made its plea for decontrol to President Truman in a telegram.

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 30 -

PRICE LEVEL CONTINUES DROP; GRAIN, COTTON HEAVY LOSERS - The wholesale price level sagged again yesterday as downward pressures increased in the leading commodity exchanges.

The Journal of Commerce Index of 30 sensitive commodity prices reflected this over-all decline with a sharp drop of 1.7 points down to 251.5.

Pacing the decline was the continued weakness of the cotton markets which witnessed a 200-point fall in cotton futures for the second day in succession and a 205 point loss in spot cotton prices at Galveston. Market opinion attributed the decline to heavy liquidation of interests holding long positions and the failure of the mills to enter the troubled market.

Grains suffered losses all along the line under heavy selling which was influenced by weakness of New York cotton and a general easing of stocks and commodities.

In the live stock markets, price movements were mixed with cattle losing \$1-\$2 and hogs gaining \$1-\$1.50 at Chicago. Dressed wholesale meats moved similarly as beef lost \$3 a hundred pounds and pork shoulders held to the previous day's prices.

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ORDERLY REDUCTION PREDICTED IN PRICES ON COTTON TEXTILES - Cotton textile prices will back away voluntarily from present ceilings over the next few months. No wide open break is anticipated, but lower prices now definitely are in the offing.

This view in the primary market is based on a combination of developments yesterday which included a further 2¢ a pound break in raw cotton and announcement by the Office of Price Administration that mill ceiling prices for November would remain unchanged.

- - -

FAT, OIL DECONTROL TO SPEED SUPPLIES - Sharply advancing prices in industrial fats and oils following decontrol action on these commodities are expected to bring out considerable quantities for production of paints, linoleum, soaps and other items, a check of trade sources stated yesterday.

Removal of price ceilings on linseed, coconut and fish oils, tallow, dehydrated castor oil, greases and other fats should start a flow to plants of these essential raw materials which have been virtually unobtainable in the past several weeks, commodity experts in the field agreed.

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CONTINUED PROSPERITY FORECAST BY SNYDER - Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder yesterday cited figures which he said prove the nation is on the road to "a continuing high level of prosperity."

He told a meeting of the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce that prosperity was indicated by a new peacetime peak of industrial production of 176 percent and that electric power, freight movements and production of home appliances were at record levels.

The Government "will take in more cash than it pays out" during the current fiscal year, Snyder said in asserting the nation was on a sound economic basis.

(Turn to page 4 for other items from
today's N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

Farm Digest 2365-46-3

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Oct. 30 (Cont.) -

WHITE HOUSE TO FIX DECONTROL SCOPE - Washington - Although the Office of Price Administration's master decontrol list has now been completed, subject to the final approval of Price Administrator Paul A. Porter, decisions which may have the effect of broadening or narrowing the scope of the action remain to be made at the White House, it was disclosed today.

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PRICE OF CALFSKIN ADVANCED BY OPA - Washington - Carrying out its part of an interagency agreement to increase imports of raw calfskin as a means of relieving leather shortages, the Office of Price Administration today announced that, the ceiling price of domestically tanned calfskin leather will be raised about 9 percent, on the average, to reflect the higher costs of imported raw skins as they become available in the next few months.

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AN INTERNATIONAL FARM BOARD - Editorial - The Federal Farm Board experiment of the early '30's demonstrated that it is not possible to check a decline in commodity prices through purchases at fixed prices for a buffer stock. So long as unlimited production continues, high prices temporarily sustained by support buying merely stimulate more output, and so make for even larger burdensome surpluses in the future.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is considering the use of the Federal Farm Board technique on an international scale. Sir John B. Orr, director general of FAO, has proposed that World Food Board accumulate buffer pools of foods to promote economic stability. This board, under the Orr plan, "would go into action only when there was a threat of the kind of violent price fluctuations that harms everybody but a few speculators."

The Federal Farm Board was set up to cope with just that kind of price fluctuation. It was found that a sharp price decline may do far more than help a few speculators. It may be correcting overproduction of a particular commodity. If a World Food Board should intervene to prevent a price decline, it may actually seriously delay a badly needed readjustment of supply to demand.

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FLOUR BUYING SLOW BUT PRICES STEADY - Despite an indifferent demand, which some flour men described as banker resistance to higher prices, there were no indications of any easing in the flour price structure as mills continued to be confronted with a firm cash wheat market.

In addition, it was pointed out that many mills already had large orders on their books.

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SUGAR REFINERY OPERATIONS EXPAND - Unloading of sugar supplies from vessels tied up in New York and other ports expanded yesterday and refiners were preparing to broaden their manufacturing operations to capacity to meet the pent-up demand for refined. It is estimated that by the week-end supplies will be available in most retail outlets in the metropolitan area.

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 26 -

DRIVE LAUNCHED FOR \$5.56 BU. GUARANTEE TO BOOST '47 FLAX CROP - Aiming for ironclad federal protection against repetition next year of the 30-million-dollar trimming just given Northwest flax farmers, leading farm co-ops and flax crushers have launched a drive for a government-guaranteed return for 1947 flax of between \$5 and \$6 a bushel, it was revealed Friday night.

The return would be assured by a guaranteed price of not less than \$5 a bushel or $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the price of wheat, and an additional payment of \$5 per acre for flax planted, which is equivalent to 56 cents a bushel. This would make the government's guaranteed return not less than \$5.56 a bushel.

The objective would be to induce more than a doubling of this year's flax production, so as to smash or ease the acute shortage of flaxseed with a more abundant crop next year.

Along with this latest turn in the Northwest's dramatic flax story came first rumblings of demands on Congress for investigation of the OPA's price handling, and for some congressional provision for compensating farmers for actual losses suffered in selling out their flax under the \$4 OPA ceiling before its removal allowed the price to jump to \$7 a bushel, thus handling a profit of \$3 a bushel to buyers of flax. On an estimated 10 million bushels of northwest flax sold by farmers under the \$4 ceiling, that meant a loss to them of 30 million dollars.

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From Milwaukee Journal, Oct. 27 -

TEXTILES, PRICES AND EXCUSES-Editorial-For several years now, there has been an acute shortage of woolen and other textiles for men's and women's clothing. One of the favorite excuses for the empty shelves was that OPA ceilings were so out of line that the manufacturer could not afford to make the textiles. Maybe so for some but let's look at the case of woolens.

The leading producer of woolen fabrics in the United States, according to the standard reference volume on the subject--Moody's Industrial Securities--is the American Woolen Co. It accounts for 10% to 15% of the total industry volume. How was American Woolen doing in the days when the industry was supposedly crippled by regulation and we were not getting the woolen textiles we needed?

In 1936 American Woolen lost \$1.88 per share of common stock, in 1937 it lost \$11.16, in 1938 it lost \$18.50, in 1939 it lost 35c. Then it started to make money--\$1.76 per share in 1940, \$11.23 in 1941, \$5.93 in 1942, \$7.56 in 1943, \$7.11 in 1944, \$14.63 in 1945.

These gains came when prices were not supposed to be high enough to induce the manufacture of woolens and you couldn't buy a suit. Remember?

And, now, how about 1946, with the woolen situation still pretty bad and prices to consumers soaring out of all bounds?

In the first six months of this year American Woolen earned \$24.15 a share, compared to \$5.57 in the same period the year before. And in the three months ending Sept. 30, American Woolen earned \$11.90 per share compared with \$1.19 in the same three month period the year before. So American Woolen has earned \$36.05 a share in the first three quarters of this year.

Hold back the tears if you can for this company and the industry which was having such a difficult time, because of price controls designed to protect the consumer. When the full story is told, a good many other industries are going to be revealed as having made such profits as they never before imagined possible.

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From Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman, Oct. 23 -

FEEDER PSYCHOLOGY-Editorial- Livestock markets are seeing evidence of a strange quirk in human psychology these days. It is manifesting itself in the fact that farmers don't seem nearly as anxious to pay prevailing prices for stocker and feeder animals now as they did before OPA price controls came off, though the bulk of the corn-fed cattle today is selling above what was the OPA ceiling price up to Oct. 15, when controls were removed, and tops have advanced as much as \$13.00 to \$16.00 at various markets.

Why should this be? Frankly, we don't know. Neither do the farmers and feeders to whom we have put the question seem to have a good sound answer for it. But the fact remains, never-the-less. Perhaps it represents a practical application of the old saying that anticipation is always greater than realization. While ceilings were still in operation and farmers were preparing for that future day when controls would be lifted and prices again would soar as they had in July and August. But with the lid off, and markets sky-rocketing to a point where consumer strikes were being threatened, it may be there came a sobering realization that what goes up must come down and a fear that the descend might be just as sudden and swift as the rise had been. We confess we don't know the answer. But that's a guess and it's as good as any other we have heard.

We think it's a hopeful sign--this refusal of farmers to be stampeded in one direction any more easily than they were in the other.

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From Kansas City Star, Oct. 24 -

IN DEBT ON LAND FERTILITY-Editorial- The young Kansas farmer, Marshall Schirer of Newton, who won the Future Farmers of America public speaking contest here this week, used the subject of soil conservation. He asserted in his winning talk that the rebuilding of the depleted farm soil of the nation was a challenge to all Future Farmers.

The fertility of the soil is a basic problem of farmers now as well as the future. The young man started on a farm today can get much better equipment, better seed and better livestock than were available to his grandfather. But the soil, in most instances, has lost much of its original productivity.

The farmer today has a much greater knowledge of how to save the soil. He also has better equipment to do the job. If it were not for the tractors, terracing machines, bulldozers and other implements, the progress now being made in protecting the soil against erosion would not be possible.

It comes as a shock to most land owners to learn the cost when they set out to do a complete job of getting their farm in hand so as to stop wastage of soil and fertility. Experience is showing that on upland farms of Missouri and Kansas this cost runs from \$20 to \$30 an acre. This takes in the expense of terracing, building water outlets, ponds and spreading fertilizer and lime, all of which usually are necessary to turn the fertility index of the land upward. Such a program is demanded if the top soil is not to wash away completely, eventually resulting in abandonment of the farm.

With a soil fertility debt of \$20 to \$30 an acre against farms, the renovation of the land is a challenge not only to future farmers but to the entire nation.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 409A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6212.)

From New York Times, Oct. 31 -

SHOES, HIDES FREED OF PRICE CONTROLS BY STEELMAN EDICT-Washington-
At the direction of John R. Steelman, stabilization director, the Office of Price Administration removed today all price controls from shoes, hides, skins and leathers. The action becomes effective at midnight tonight.

In accordance with his directive, the OPA removed controls from the following:

All types of domestic and imported skins and hides and processed leather, including calf and cattle, kid and goat, sheepskin and other leathers, and men's, women's and children's shoes of all types, including dress and sportwear, play shoes and slippers.

Price officials estimated that leather prices would rise about 50 percent and that there would be an increase of from 20 to 30 percent in the price of footwear, on which the public spends some \$2,000,000,000 annually.

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FAO READY TO COMPROMISE-Washington-Faced by the loss of United States support of a world food board, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was prepared today to accept a compromise plan more compatible with this Government's over all foreign trade policy.

The goal of FAO officials is to preserve the basic principles of international action from the world food program endorsed by the Copenhagen conference last month and to incorporate them in agreements that can be reconciled with United States proposals for an International Trade Organization.

In an official "suggested charter" for the trade organization, the United States offered several recommendations relating to international commodity agreements. In no instance, however, does the Government envisage a permanent commodity organization devoted to price stabilization or purchase and disposal of surplus foodstuffs.

Even the acceptable commodity agreements mentioned in this charter would not be resorted to, the United States proposed, unless the ITO found "exceptional circumstances" to justify their use.

- - - -

RECEIPTS OF MEAT LARGEST IN YEARS-The greatest meat wave in recent years continued yesterday to roll upon this city but failed to break through a stout dike of consumer resistance.

With receipts exceeding the prewar average, unsold beef and veal piled up in warehouses and store refrigerators as housewives in large number refused to pay current prices.

Most butchers interpreted the dull business as consumer protest against decontrolled prices, which still average 30 to 40 percent above former ceilings. Butter sales were off, too.

(Turn to page 2 for other items - - - -
in today's N. Y. Times.)

From New York Times, Oct. 31 -

HARRIMAN SCOFFS AT ECONOMIC CRASH-W. Averall Harriman, recently appointed Secretary of Commerce, discounted last night fears of economic disaster ahead in this country. "I fell strongly," he said, "that these fears are based on unreasoning defeatism."

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COTTON EXCHANGES CLOSE THIRD TIME-Trading on the principal cotton futures markets throughout the country was halted suddenly yesterday for the third time in the last eleven days. The lead of the New York Cotton Exchange in shutting down its machinery was followed quickly by New Orleans and Chicago but the Dallas, Tex., market remained open.

Futures transactions will be resumed today, however, as a result of decisions made late last night by the boards of managers of the three Exchanges. The New York Exchange announced that "after an all day re-examination of all the problems confronting the users of its facilities," the board found "no undue congestion" and voted to resume trading, "believing such action is in the best interests of the public and the entire cotton trade."

The suspension action was unexpected by traders, but it fell in with the nervous and feverish pattern that has characterized cotton trading in the last two weeks. In five out of the last ten sessions, prices plummeted the permissible daily limit of \$10 a bale. Values dropped about \$50 in the period.

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PRESIDENT PLEDGES AID-Washington-President Truman pledged today to Representative John J. Sparkman of Alabama all aid the Government could give in an attempt to stabilize the cotton market. Prices have dropped \$50 a bale since Oct. 8.

Representative Sparkman told reporters the President had authorized him to make public this pledge and to say that Mr. Truman was conferring with Government advisers on plans for action.

Indication of the immediate form of aid to be offered was a press release by the Department of Agriculture, which was in effect an invitation to the cotton farmer to put his cotton under loans at the standing Government offer of $92\frac{1}{2}$ percent of parity during this heaviest selling season.

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FOOD STORES SHOW PRICE RESISTANCE-Grocery retailers are showing a definite resistance to higher priced food items at the wholesale level and are exercising greater selectivity in the brands they purchase, trade sources reported yesterday. Retailers generally do not expect spotty inventories to be filled for at least another month despite the ending of transportation tieups in the metropolitan area.

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From the Journal of Commerce, Oct. 31 -

FULL COTTON TEXTILE DECONTROL WEIGHED TO PROP FALLING STAPLE, Washington - Complete removal of all ceilings on cotton textiles was reported today to be under consideration by the Government as one step to stabilize the cotton market. Paul Porter, OPA Administrator, declined to affirm or deny the report that ceilings would be lifted, but a series of meetings among top officials pointed to that possibility.

Although it has been authoritatively established that cotton textiles are among the products included on the still to be issued OPA "master list"—which will establish the items to be retained under ceilings—officials conceded that the final decision on cotton textiles will now probably be made by the White House.

- - -

U.S. SUPPORT FUNDS AMPLE TO SUSTAIN FARM PRICE 'FLOORS', Washington - With more than \$3,500,000,000 available to support the prices of agricultural commodities at the levels stipulated by Congress, the Department of Agriculture will easily be able to discharge all support price obligations which may arise during the current crop year, agricultural economists stated today.

Not only are most farm products currently selling at prices substantially above the levels at which USDA must start to support them, but despite sharp declines in the prices of cotton, plus more moderate decreases in some other commodities, agricultural prices are generally expected to hold above support levels during the current marketing season.

- - -

DAILY COMMODITY INDEX UP AS LINSEED OIL PRICE JUMPS - The continued weakness of most food items on the commodity exchanges was more than offset yesterday by sharp increases in linseed oil and turpentine prices.

Reflecting this movement, The Journal of Commerce daily index of 30 sensitive commodity prices rose 2.8 points to 254.3.

On the deficit side were the following: Grain prices were mixed but averaged lower. Meat prices were under attack with hogs losing 75¢ to \$1 and dressed beef down \$2 a hundred pounds. Butter lost 6½¢ to 7¢ in the leading exchanges as demand dried up and supplies increased.

Counteracting the general decline were the jumps in turpentine and linseed oil--turpentine gaining 3¢ to 4¢ and linseed oil advancing 16.5¢ under the initial impact of decontrol..

The effect of these two items on the general index was sharpened by the elimination of the downward pressure of tumbling cotton prices through the closing of cotton exchanges for the third time in two weeks.

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DECONTROL PETITION FILED WITH BOARD, Washington, AP - The Price Decontrol Board received today its first formal decontrol petition—a request for removal of price controls from the groundwood specialty paper industry.

The petition was filed by Robert E. Canfield of New York city, secretary and treasurer of the industry' advisory group set up by OPA. It contended that the paper is unimportant to business living costs and that OPA had refused to grant or deny decontrol within the fifteen days set by law.

- - -

THE COTTON CRISIS - Editorial - Commodity markets do not fluctuate uniformly. Particularly in the later stages of major advances or declines in the price level, conflicting movements develop. This is illustrated in spectacular fashion by the severe break in the raw cotton market this month, at a time when the main price trend is still upward because of the lifting of wartime controls.

The action of the cotton market provides a warning to all commodity markets. Statistically, the position of cotton is exceptionally strong.

But, as so often happens, this very favorable statistical picture gave rise to a wave of speculation which overreached itself. Also, inventories of cotton goods piled up awaiting price ceiling clarification. At the extreme levels of the advance, therefore, mill buying of cotton tapered off while hedge selling to protect inventories expanded. Now, the raw cotton price has declined more than 25 percent, and the situation has become so disorderly that the cotton futures exchanges did not open yesterday. Conferences were called in Washington to consider price support measures, since the price has some way to go before it will be back at the Government support price of $98\frac{1}{2}$ percent of parity, or below 24¢ a pound.

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SPECULATIVE SPREE ENDS WITH CLOSING OF COTTON EXCHANGES - The closing of the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday through apparent inability to balance a large volume of selling orders against buying demand has brought recriminations and denunciations from several quarters.

These range from the implication by some brokerage sources that the mills should come to the support of the market with large buying orders, to the declaration of Tom Linder, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, that closing of the exchange is the result of "a drive by the Administration to put cotton back to what they think is parity."

Against Linder's further statement that speculation had nothing to do with the drop "because the speculators were all bullish," is the report from New Orleans that "farmers, merchants, doctors and everybody else all over the South have been speculating in cotton futures."

There are many sides to this problem, but they all stem back to the basic fact that cotton futures markets during recent months have not been governed by the laws of supply and demand but by search upon the part of many people for a quick, easy profit. It is estimated by one source that during the month preceding the price break futures trading involved about 6,000,000 bales. This is at the annual rate of 72,000,000 bales against an expected crop of less than 9,000,000 bales and a visible stock of 16,500,000 bales.

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REFINED SUGAR VOLUME LARGER - Gradual improvement was noted in the movement of refined sugar into consuming channels yesterday as refiners stepped up their manufacturing operations to accommodate the more than 130,000 tons of raw that were being delivered from ships with the end of the truck strike.

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FLOUR SHIPMENTS VERY BACKWARD - Flour mills have been dropping further behind on shipments owing to the shortage of boxcars and hopes for early relief were pinned on the possibility that ending of the maritime strike will release a sufficient number to permit stepping-up of operations.

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From the Davenport Democrat and Leader, Oct. 28 -

SEES DANGER FROM SPOILAGE OF HIGH MOISTURE CORN IN IOWA DURING WINTER MONTHS-Ames, Ia.-Much of Iowa's bumper crop this fall is in danger of being cribbed too early for safe storage, weather and marketing officials reported here Monday. And because a large amount of the crop will be carried over for feeding or sale late next year, much of its feeding and market value is likely to be lost.

A survey of the Iowa crop, just completed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture's Weather Division, indicates that the moisture in corn at this time of year has been exceeded in only two other years since 1936.

H. C. S. Thom, in charge of the survey, said that a total of 336 samples, representing 40,000 acres, were gathered from every county in the state. They show that the average moisture content for Oct. 11, when the samples were taken, was 31 per cent. In 1944 and 1945, the only two years of higher moisture since 1928, the moisture average at the same time was 33.4 and 40 per cent respectively.

Iowa State college storage specialist point out that to store safely the moisture must be down to around 20 per cent for ordinary cribs.

Thom said that many farmers have a tendency to compare the conditions this year with the soft corn last fall and feel secure about this season's crop on that basis.

"The only safe guide," he emphasized, "is to have samples of corn tested before cribbing."

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Oct. 25 -

OPA SCANDAL IN FLAX-Editorial-There is no room for doubt as to the whereabouts of the main responsibility for allowing the multi-million-dollar trimming that has been given to the Northwest farmers who produce the bulk of this nation's flax.

That responsibility belongs to the OPA. The OPA's ceiling price of \$4 per bushel was retained until October 17 in the face of a demand for flax for paints, varnishes, linoleum and ink that is unprecedented in this country's history.

By October 17, the Northwest farmers are estimated to have sold three-fourths of their 1946 flax production. That fact insured that actual producers of flax, in tens of thousands of instances, would not get the benefit of the price rise. The price jumped to \$7 a bushel. As a result, the farmers who sold for cash except through cooperatives that could give them protection or under escalator clauses giving them the benefit of future price increases, saw the money value of their product jump \$3 a bushel after it had left their hands.

The sum and the substance of it is that the Northwest farmers have taken at least a 30-million-dollar trimming on flax this year. Whoever made the offsetting profit, the big majority of the farmers know that they did not get it.

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From Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 26 -

FISHERMEN ASK HIKE IN PRICES-San Francisco, (UP)-The northern California council of the International Fishermen and Allied Workers of America Congress of Industrial Organizations announced Friday it will present a demand for 25 to 25% increases in the price of fish catches to the Northern California Fisheries Assn. within a few days.

The council, which represents fishermen from Santa Cruz to the Oregon state line, reached its decision after a meeting here, Chairman Victor B. Martin disclosed.

"We found it necessary to increase prices due to the inflationary conditions and increases in the cost of all items the fishermen must purchase," Martin said.

Exact prices to be asked were not disclosed.

The demand includes all market fish, with the exception of sardines, Martin said.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Oct. 28 -

TEXTILE PRODUCTION-Editorial-In an address to the Cotton Textile Institute freighted with the usual cargo of general optimism, Civilian Production Administrator Small has forecast, with minor qualifications, a long period of prosperity, continued good demand for textiles and an end to government controls over the industry as a reward for co-operation in obtaining full production of all needed goods.

Addressing the same group on the following day, Economist A. W. Zelomek stated that the next twelve to 18 months would bring "some very important and rather unpleasant changes" to the cotton textile economy. Mr. Zelomek's record of trade predictions has been good. Prospects are that retailers generally will be seriously overstocked within the next few months, he said, and mills will have a real selling problem next Spring.

This is the general trade opinion. It knows that a considerable amount of deferred consumer textile requirements has been satisfied and feels that the sellers' market, consequently, must end in the near future.

Of course, Mr. Small's job is to stimulate production. He naturally spreads good cheer, particularly when addressing representatives of an industry who may be entertaining some degree of doubt regarding future markets. He may also be correct.

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From Alabama Farmers State, Oct. 28 -

IT WAS NOT A SIN-Editorial-Price control, a good thing while the nation was at war, is on the way out. OPA which has been guilty of much bungling but which, on the whole, fulfilled a useful function, is now in process of liquidation. Some will say it outlived its usefulness and few will mourn its passing.

Rents, building materials, and automobiles probably will remain under controls a while longer but all foods and feeds probably will be stripped of controls on Nov. 1 or soon after. Controls may be retained on farm implements.

All of this means that the price of farm products will no longer be tied to any regulatory program designed to hold down the cost of living. The law of supply and demand will again determine prices. A Christian clergyman, in a nationwide radio address, recently made repeated veiled references to "farmers' selfishness" in withholding their products from the market. It could be inferred from his remarks that he considered such action sinful.

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